FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 165 26 August 1986

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REPORT ON 25 AUG DISARMAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

LD260230 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1850 GMT 25 Aug 86

[USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press conference on 18 August Gorbachev statement conducted by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs; Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; and Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; in the Press Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 August -- recorded]

[Text] [Vorontsov] The statement by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committe Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 18 August on one of the key problems in international politics -- the ending of nuclear tests and the decision to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions to 1 January 1987, stands, it can be said without exaggeration, at the center of the world's attention. A noticeable nervousness prevails now in Washington; contradictory arguments are made in favor of the United States continuing nuclear explosions. Here are a few examples: White House Chief of State Donald Regan speaks about the United States supposedly not being against a treaty on a comprehensive and complete prohibition of nuclear weapons tests, but it cannot, so he says, go for it without an appropriate monitoring system. Other representatives of the U.S. President reject the monitoring thesis and bluntly say that the United States needs the tests to improve its nuclear weapons. Washington has also muddled its arguments as to who is catching up with whom in the nuclear arms. Essentially, the United States has no rational explanations as to why it does not want to join the Soviet moratorium, if of course, it will not be acknowledged that the nuclear explosions are needed by the United States exclusively for continuing the nuclear arms race in a vain attempt to achieve military superiority. And of course the matter does not lie in monitoring. The Soviet Union has, in essence, proposed all sorts of monitoring even, in our opinion, sometimes over and above requirements. The United States all the same will not take up halting nuclear tests. As is now clear to all, here Washington is hardly moved by concern over monitoring but an attempt to create a cover in order to continue to carry out work for creating new classes and types of nuclear weapons.

There is every basis now for ending the nuclear fever on earth once and for all by means of a Soviet-U.S. moratorium, and subsequently, a treaty. The question of a moratorium should not be examined in isolation, and not only as a measure toward ending nuclear explosions, but in the context of the overall problem, that of delivering mankind from nuclear weapons, as a kind of prologue to complete nuclear disarmament.

[Gerasimov] And now? Please let us have your questions.

[Reporter] I'm from Soviet TV's "Vremya" program. In connection with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement both official circles and the press in the United States are placing the main stress now on the correspondence between the two leaders. Various leaks are taking place. Encouraging hints are made. In particular they claim that, in his last message to Comrade Gorbachev, Reagan made constructive proposals in the sphere of disarmament. In particular this allegedly concerns the problem of halting nuclear tests too. What can you say about this?

[Vorontsov] The correspondence between the leaders of the two states is confidential, in accordance with existing agreement and the practice of many years. Therefore, it is not for me to reveal its contents here.

But I must say that since Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's 18 August statement, Washington has indeed been making use of deliberate leaks in an attempt to distract U.S. and world public attention from the points raised in the statement, the possibility of the United States joining the moratorium on all nuclear explosions and the early conclusions of an agreement on halting them. It is quite obvious that such leaks are clearly intended to delude people and to present a more favorable impression of Washington's position to the outside world, to make it look constructive when in fact it is not. Since the leaks emanate from U.S. officials, it really is difficult for people to work out what the correspondence between the two leaders was about. It is all the more difficult given the truly complex nature of the questions now worrying not just the U.S. public but also the public throughout the world.

If you would like to know my view, I can tell you that I personally think that in such a matter it is probably better not to play with leaks but to inform the world public of the true contents of the letters that were exchanged between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, so that people throughout the world have an opportunity to judge for themselves the true nature of the correspondence and the proposals contained therein. But, naturally, it is not for you or me to resolve this question here. It is the responsibility of the leaders of the two countries to decide whether or not to reveal the contents of their correspondence.

[Gerasimov] Please go ahead, TASS.

[Reporter] I'm Vashedchenko from TASS. Can you tell us what Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev had in mind when he said that the Soviet Union would find a response that would render the SDI program for star wars worthless?

[Akhromeyev] When they speak about the U.S. preparations for star wars, what is meant is their preparation for the deployment of a multi-stage system of antimissile defense for the territory of the United States, and for the creation [sozdaniye] and deployment of space-strike weapons. The purpose of the U.S. preparation for star wars, that is the implementation of what I have said, is to devalue the strategic nuclear forces of the Soviet Union; that is, to disarm the USSR and thus provide the United States of America with the opportunity to permanently threaten the Soviet Union with a mass nuclear missile strike.

Two aspects are being pursued, and there are two aspects here: on the political level, the deployment of the antimissile defense system of the country and space-strike weapons undermines the existing balance and leads the talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms into a dead end. It undermines faith in realistic nature of these talks. It creates instead of stability strategic chaos and sharply increases the risk of nuclear war.

On a purely military level this program undermines the existing military balance. If the United States continues work to implement its star wars plans, the Soviet Union will have to take appropriate measures, and if necessary we will quickly find an answer; moreover, this will not be the one the United States expects it to be. It will be an answer that will invalidate the star wars program. This was clearly stated by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the party, in his statement. As a a military man, I can say that the United States does not possess a monopoly of scientific-technical progress in military matters. The development of science and technology in the military-technology field has reached a level where the eternal struggle between the sword and the shield, between defensive and offensive weapons, is today being solved not in one, but in several directions. For every action, a reliable means of counteraction can be found.

In response to the action by the United States undermining the balance with the help of the creation of the country's antimissile defense and space-strike weapons, the Soviet Union could undertake an identical answer. It is in the position to do this. Strategic offensive weapons, too, can be perfected to such an extent as to make the program for the antimissile defense of U.S. territory a fabulously expensive and extremely difficult matter to accomplish.

Other answers that will invalidate the star wars program are also possible. In this situation the Soviet Union is forced to carry out fundamental research in many directions. Among them are those which envisage, with sufficient confidence, effective measures for counteracting the antimissile defense of the country's territory. Moreover, these measures can be promptly implemented. If the United States does indeed deploy its in-depth system of antimisile defense of the country and space-strike weapons, the Soviet Union will select those methods of action that, to the utmost extent, meet the interests of its defense capabilities and in its turn will confront the United States with the need to seek an answer to this. Our measures will not be those to which Washington would like to incline us.

[Gerasimov] Here is a question from Franz Koestler of Austrian TV: The West is putting forward the idea of an interim agreement, which would envisage a gradual reduction in the number of nuclear explosions at the same time as a reduction in nuclear arsenals. What is your view, Yuliy Mikhaylovich?

[Vorontsov] I think such proposals are dictated by a wish to retain a loophold for the continuation of the arms race, rather by a wish to put an end to the arms race, to halt it. Judge for yourselves. Why is it necessary to continue nuclear tests on some limited scale or reduced scale when they can all be stopped now. All the scientific-technical groundwork exists for this. One side, the Soviet Union, is already in favor of this. All other countries are calling for this. Look at the activities of the Delhi Six. All nuclear explosions can and must be halted. Therefore, I feel that one should not attach too much significance to proposals that still imply a continuation of the arms race.

[Gerasimov] The same correspondent, Franz Koestler of Austrian TV, continues: Is it possible to draw up the clause dealing with the banning of tests in such a way that it remains possible to work on the modernization of armaments, so that it leaves some room for research within the SDI framework?

[Vorontsov] In my opinion this is not a question from an Austrian journalist but rather from the people in command of SDI development. Of course they would like to have this possibility. But the world does not want to leave this possibility open. There is clearly a dispute here. This must be decided by the world in opposition to the U.S. Administration.

[Gerasimov] Martti Hosser from Finnish TV asks: In justifying the U.S. Administration's refusal to halt nuclear explosions, certain U.S. representatives claim that the Soviet Union is in a position to proclaim a moratorium because it is well ahead of the United States in tests. What do you have to say in response to this argument?

[Akhromeyev, laughing] Unfortunately, I have to state that the United States is not lagging behind the Soviet Union in nuclear tests. Such statements are not in accordance with reality. The facts say something else. The United States is currently the leader in nuclear tests.

If one takes all the nuclear tests by all countries carried out over all time, the United States has carried out over 50 percent of nuclear tests out of the overall number carried out by all countries. Furthermore, in each sphere taken separately, be it in the air, underground or under water, the United States has conducted more nuclear tests than the Soviet Union.

This year, as one knows, since 1 August 1985, that is for over a year, the Soviet Union has not been carrying out nuclear tests, while the United States has carried out 18 such tests.

Those are the facts. Where then can there be any question of lagging behind? The point has nothing to do with lagging behind, but the desire to modernize and completely renew strategic nuclear forces. For that, new warheads are needed. There is also the desire to develop the country's antimissile defense, and for that, nuclear power sources are needed. Therefore, the United States is opposed to banning nuclear tests.

[Gerasimov] Go ahead, please.

[Reporter] Here is a question from GDR TV. Would you tell us, please, whether or not you are afraid that your country's defense capability will be weakened as a result of a lengthy moratorium?

[Akhromeyev] The question of stopping nuclear tests has two sides. It has both the political and the military side. From the political viewpoint the question is for peace-loving states and the world public to achieve a ban on nuclear tests through their joint efforts. In answering an earlier question I have already commented on this case. In essence, there will be a prohibition on the further development of nuclear weapons -- that is, on the creation of new weapons systems -- in that case, it will be seriously impeded if not made impossible. [sentence as heard]

It is natural that the Soviet Union, as a peace-loving state, has an interest in this. In announcing the moratorium it calculates that peace-loving states and the world public will support it in this matter.

The military side, this is a serious matter: We know who we are dealing with and we have a lot of experience, but in the given instance we are all together in the Soviet Union, both the political leadership and the military leadership see this matter in a comprehensive way, and although it is not simple for us and we have to make a very careful assessment of the correlation of forces, and the correlation in the area of nuclear tests, we consider that as yet it is tolerable to accept a certain degree of detriment. [sentence as heard]

The country's defence capability is being maintained, both as far as our country and as far as our friends and allies are concerned. It is being maintained at an appropriate level.

[Studio announcer] A question from French TV: What initiatives can other nuclear powers -- France, for example take to alter the present situation?

[Vorontsov] As I have already said, many countries have made initiatives in this respect. I repeat once again that the example of the Delhi Six is an illustration of this. When the halting of nuclear tests is discussed at the forthcoming UN General Assembly session, various other states can, of course, contribute by submitting specific proposals on monitoring and other aspects of halting nuclear blasts.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has pointed out in his answer to the leaders of the six countries in the Delhi Six, we would not be opposed to the resumption of talks in which the participants include Britain. Such talks, between the USSR, the United States and Britain, have been held in the past but they were broken off and we were not to blame for this. As far as France is concerned, we would welcome any steps France could take in this sphere. But I repeat: At the moment we are saying that the questions involved in halting nuclear tests should be specifically dealt with by the two large countries, the USSR and United States, which in fact carry out most of these tests. They, of course, must start the process. But the subsequent adherence of other countries to both the moratorium and to a possible agreement on this would be welcomed in every possible way.

[Gerasimov] There is a question from the GDR news agency: There are people in the United States who feel that explosions are needed to test the reliability of stocks of nuclear weapons. What is your view on this?

[Akhromeyev] I must say that, on the whole and to some extent, this does correspond to reality: A proportion of nuclear tests being carried out by both sides is carried out by them for the purposes of verifying already existing nuclear devices and for the purpose of determining the extent to which they are reliable. This proportion however, is immeasurably small. Let us put it this way: Approximately 80 percent of nuclear tests and possibly more are carried out for the purpose of testing new nuclear devices destined for the new nuclear arms being manufactured or for energy sources for space in order to deploy offensive nuclear arms there. However, the USSR does, after all, propose to mutually halt nuclear tests. This means that the USSR halts them and the United States halts them. This means that neither our nuclear weapons, nor U.S. nuclear weapons will undergo reliability tests. After all, we thus place the sides in the same conditions. That is why it is not this -- and I repeat again -- it is not this that constitutes the main cause; the main cause is the desire to create more and more new nuclear arms systems.

[Reporter] Mikhnovich, APN The other day some Western newspapers reported that the Soviet Union is building two powerful radar stations in the western part of the Soviet Union that are intended to detect missiles. Is this in fact that case? If so, to what extent does this accord with the ABM Treaty?

[Akhromeyev] In the first place, everything that the Soviet Union is doing to improve its system for warning of missile attack accords with the ABM Treaty. In contemporary circumstances, in the world in which are living, the system for warning against missile attack is one of the most important warning systems. For this reason, under the treaty both the Soviet Union and the United States have the right to improve this system -- within a certain framework, within certain limits. So, I repeat, we are doing this within certain limits. As regards the specific stations in the system for warning of missiles attack about which you are asking, I can say: Yes. They are being built close to the borders of the Soviet Union. They are directed outwards. Their purpose is to replace obsolete stations that existed earlier. All this is being done in complete accord with the ABM Treaty.

[Reporter] I'm from Czechoslovak Radio. In your view, what opportunities for progress over the question of monitoring the ban on nuclear tests are presented by the meeting of experts, which was proposed by the Delhi Six?

[Vorontsov] In addition to this proposal, the Delhi Six made several specific points that they could discuss with representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union.

They do, indeed, include interesting proposals on how to make use of the possibilities open to these countries, how to exploit the possibilities presented by a worldwide seismic network for checking that explosions are not being carried out, and how to organize on-site inspection. These are all questions contained in the Delhi Six's special document, which was prepared in Mexico. They are being studied with interest by Soviet specialists. But, of course, they can only be implemented if the United States agrees to sit down together with experts from the Delhi Six, with Soviet experts, to study their proposals and also the wide range of other ideas and proposals that have been made in both the United States and the Soviet Union. I have in mind the scientific world.

[Gerasimov] There are no more questions. Our press conference is over. Thank you for your attention.

ZORIN CRITICIZES U.S. UNCERTAINTY ON MORATORIUM

LD260410 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Excerpts] Radio Moscow observer Valentin Zorin comments on statements by American officials made in connection with the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing to the end of this year: Judging from the reports, Mikhail Gorbachev's statement on the extension of the moratorium has caused differences and, I would even say, confusion among high-ranking members of the Republican administration. At first the White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, who did not even bother to familiarize himself with the text of the Soviet leader's statement, hurried to announce the White House's negative attitude toward the Soviet initiative. He said the United States had no intention to join it and planned to continue nuclear tests. The man in charge of the White House's staff, Donald Regan, came up with assurances that the administration was not in principle against the treaty that ban nuclear weapons tests universally and completely but was for proper verification of the treaty of this kind. He added that as soon as the United States became certain of the effectiveness of that control the advance might be made towards the signing of such a treaty.

In short, in the course of 1 week the White House press secretary and the chief of the White House's staff made two absolutely incompatible statements. One official claimed that the United States would never agree to the halting of tests and the other said that Washington was not, allegedly, against it provided there is the proper verification system. So what is actually the matter? I personally think that Larry Speakes, who had no time for contemplation, actually gave away what the White House really thought on the matter. As for Donald Regan, he tried to resort to propaganda tricks in order to mislead public opinion. It is hard to imagine that the head of the White House's staff does not know what the whole world knows today: The Soviet Union is ready to accept all forms of control over a nuclear test ban. Mikhail Gorbachev underlined on many occasions that the Soviet Union is prepared to agree to any broad forms of control, ranging from national to international, including on-site inspections. The American Administration knows without a doubt about the information registered by the American experts who installed their instruments close to the Soviet nuclear testing ground situated in the vicinity of the city of Semipalatinsk in Central Asia. The American seismologists registered on this equipment nuclear explosions and not the Soviet ones -- there was none of them -- but the ones that were carried out in Nevada. Donald Regan knows this all too well, of course. Why then does he try to create the impression that the already resolved verification problem is allegedly the stumbling block in the way of halting nuclear tests? There can be only one answer to this question: Washington lacks arguments for justifying its refusal to follow the Soviet Union's example. [passage omitted]

PRAVDA REVIEWS MORATORIUM, ARMS ISSUES

PM251311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 86 First Edition p 4

[Yevgeniy Grigoryev "International Review"]

[Text] PRAVDA's teletype room has been overloaded with work this week. Usually in August, at the peak of the vacation season, the foreign news tapes become shorter. But this year more and more rolls of tape had to be fed in: It is no exaggeration to say that a tremendous stream of responses, comments, and opinions was (and still is) coming in in connection with the statement delivered by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on 18 August.

The Main Event

The statement immediately gave a powerful boost to the discussion of one of the key problems of international policy, the struggle of opinions and political and social forces on the question of whether or not there should be an end to nuclear tests and thus a change for the better in the world situation.

The world awaited the Soviet leader's words with great impatience and interest. The Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions expired 6 August. It lasted a whole year, although Washington was acting provocatively and refusing to follow our example. How would the Soviet Union act? That question interested everyone, including those who were and are exploding nuclear devices at the Nevada range. But above all, it was of sincere concern to hundreds of millions of people and sensible political forces, who hoped that Moscow would offer yet another chance for those who are moving toward nuclear catastrophe to come to their senses.

The peoples' expectations were not disappointed. Hence the positive and generally grateful echo in response to the Soviet Union's decision to extend its unilateral moratorium until 1 January 1987. And to its appeal rapidly to reach and sign an agreement on ending nuclear tests this year.

Yes, many governments and influential political and public circles assess our new initiative highly. It is described as an important practical contribution to the cause of peace. It is said to be an example of reasonable, worthy, constructive, responsible behavior by a great power in the complex international conditions that prevail, conditions in which tension carves out dangerous areas of confrontation. There is an increased awareness that banning nuclear tests is not an end in itself, but a promising, effective lever for resolving disarmament problems and leading the world out of the impasse of the arms race in general.

Judging from the responses, there is a relatively wide "consensus" that questions of verifying that tests are not being conducted are virtually resolved in technical terms (this is indicated, in particular, in a special report of the UN secretary general published the other day). Therefore in the future it will be more difficult for Washington to endlessly speculate on the supposed impossibility of "verification." The aforementioned opinions are voiced by the leaders of states of different alliance orientations and by representatives of, not infrequently, opposing political and social forces.

The fraternal socialist states regard the new Soviet initiative as an integral part of our countries' joint line in world affairs. Poland's TRYBUNA LUDU writes: "If it was not for the negative position of the U.S. Administration, the whole world would have been free from nuclear tests from last August, from the moment of the first Soviet moratorium. [paragraph continues]

Silence on the testing ranges would certainly have helped resolve urgent problems." You could not put it more clearly than that.

Of course, we are interested to know what people in the capital of our great Chinese neighbor think about this problem. In answer to this question, a PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "We believe that nuclear tests are not a completely isolated question. In order to achieve effective nuclear disarmament, we advocate that the two largest nuclear powers first and foremost stop the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, and also considerably reduce their nuclear arms."

The Soviet step was greeted with great satisfaction in the "Delhi Six" countries. The Japanese Foreign Ministry responded positively to the extension of the moratorium. "This initiative cannot be overestimated," W. Brandt, chairman of the Soviet Democratic Party of Germany, stated. Its great significance was noted by Senator E. Kennedy. In Paris, the newspaper LE MONDE stressed the goodwill reflected in this step by the Soviet Union. A representative of the British Labor Party said: "No justification remains either for Britain or for the United States. The world awaits a comprehensive test ban, and summit meetings are a suitable opportunity."

All this speaks for itself. These opinions are indeed widespread on the planet. Our new initiative undoubtedly reinforces them. It also reinforces the will of peace-loving forces and antiwar movements to take united action to achieve a realistic goal.

But let us not deceive ourselves. Excessive optimism is, by all appearances, inappropriate. There are "responses" of another kind too. There is still great resistance to the ending of the arms race in the U.S. Administration and the mighty military-industrial complex. As yet there has been no official response from Washington to the Soviet appeal. But after initial confusion, officials of that administration have clearly been trying to minimize and discredit the Soviet initiative and justify their own course of continuing the arms race.

Unseemly Maneuvers

The moment of truth has once again arrived for Washington. "Throughout the world, support is growing for an agreement on ending nuclear tests," NBC television commentator J. Chancellor says. THE WASHINGTON POST groans in annoyance about the "unseemly spectacle of the administration being dragged kicking and screaming to talks on a treaty on a comprehensive nuclear weapon test ban." Yes, many observers on both sides of the Atlantic and the Pacific cannot help noting the fact that the White House has found itself in a difficult position: It has nowhere to hide, as the saying goes.

We are not likely to feel sorry about that. But as London's THE GUARDIAN correctly suggested, "to say that the USSR has secured a propaganda victory is to belittle the significance of such a moratorium." It would be far better if the United States responded with a similar propaganda victory" by doing a similar thing, that is, stopping nuclear explosions. However, since its ruling circles do not want that, they are now having to let themselves go completely.

Their methods here are not marked by originality: Propaganda tricks and ruses up to and including outright lies, distorting the content, meaning, and objectives of the USSR's proposals, and trying to conceal them from the main bulk of the population. More cunning maneuvers are also being undertaken. The task here is to justify the principle of continuing nuclear explosions, mislead people of goodwill and the antinuclear movement, and present the administration in the role of all but a champion of nuclear disarmament.

There is no lack of shamelessness here. At the beginning of the week, representatives of the American Administration rejected the proposals contained in the Soviet statement without even having read the complete text, let alone studied it. But what do we hear at the end of the week from Santa Barbara, where some of the White House staff are staying with the President? The leader of that staff calls for a "well thought out answer, not a rapid rejection." But he is not talking about the moratorium. Reprimanding the American mass media on the grounds that the majority of them "pay attention only to what is happening in the arms control sphere," this official tried to bring them back to Reagan's familiar letter, which was the subject of propagandist publicity back in early August and whose content, according to the logic of the above remark, does not relate particularly to the "arms control sphere." In connection with the USSR's proposals, people in Santa Barbara feigned "disappointment": They say that these "do not go into concrete details." Of course, the leader of the White House staff is very well aware that there could be no more concrete proposal: to reach agreement on a nuclear test ban, rapidly to draw up a corresponding agreement, and to sign it this year at the Soviet-American summit meeting. It is another matter that Washington would like to erode people's idea of what is really being proposed.

The administration's key "counterargument" has been repeated often this week. It proclaims that "a moratorium does not accord with the security interests of the United States or its allies and friends." So, security on nuclear powder kegs, when the explosion of even a small part of them would become an irremediable catastrophe? That is an absurdity not subject to the rules of logic! But nonetheless it is put into circulation, by people who have not even asked the opinion of their allies.

Yet FRG Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, for instance, stated: "If an accord on a comprehensive test ban is reached at the summit meeting, we would only welcome that fact." Spain has responded positively to the USSR's decision. The Netherlands Foreign Ministry noted that "the USSR's new peace initiative merits a high appraisal." According to REUTER, "Norway, Denmark, and Greece were among those allies that did not agree with U.S. views on the question of a comprehensive test ban." These facts speak for themselves.

Of course, Washington takes account of the fact that the administration's negative attitude toward a moratorium is alarming millions of people in the United States itself. Simple logic tells them: If there are no tests, there will be no improvement of nuclear arms and the path to their elimination will be opened up. According to a poll, some 80 percent of Americans would like nuclear explosions to stop in Nevada, and, incidentally, throughout the world. Therefore, in order to reassure and disorient the public, a kind of "cheerful bluff" is being practised. They are trying to create the impression in people, through the press, that Washington is not "Mister No," that "new ideas" are maturing deep within the administration and that while rejecting the proposal on ending tests, people there are "expressing restrained optimism regarding the possibility of concluding an agreement at other talks," and so on, and so forth.

So what are these "new ideas"? Some of them have already been thrown to the American press. For instance, the "idea" of some kind of ersatz limitation on the number of tests, instead of their complete end. They are also talking about "the administration's readiness to join with the Soviet Union in a new attempt to elaborate the technology of compliance with a ban on nuclear explosions." But not to join in a total ban on the explosions themselves.

But whatever maneuvers people across the ocean may make, the attitude toward our new initiative remains the touchstone of sincerity and responsibility on the part of the American leaders. There is no escaping the fact that -- we quote THE NEW YORK TIMES -- "in the public's opinion, nuclear tests are synonymous with the arms race." That cannot be proved wrong!

Roots of Obstruction

The latest stage of the "Red Flag" exercises has been taking place in recent days at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. American planes are engaging in "combat" with fighters bearing the red star and making strikes against "enemy" units clad in military uniform similar to ours and marching under the red flag. "All this gives the exercises credibility and reminds us who is our enemy," Air Force Captain Gary West explained to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

So on one hand they give public assurances of their desire for every possible contact with the Soviet Union and for a new summit meeting, and on the other they set their fighters on to make war on us. How is that compatible with the Soviet-American statement in Geneva that there must be no war between the USSR and the United States -- either conventional or nuclear? But it is not for the sake of pure eloquence that the magazine DER SPIEGEL writes in its August issue: "Despite all denials, American strategists are preparing for the waging and the consequences of a prolonged nuclear war." And the journal cites facts.

During these days the MX first-strike ICBM's have begun to be put in place. General L. Welch, the new U.S. Air Force chief of staff, presented the news, "at breakfast" with reporters in the Pentagon, that the modernization of the 131st B-52 bomber has begun, to enable it to carry cruise missiles. In other words, they are methodically working toward breaking the limits imposed under SALT II. Judging from a statement by D. Feith, deputy assistant secretary of defense on negotiations policy, the Pentagon is also shrugging aside the convention on banning biological and toxic weapons, which supposedly "has major shortcomings and cannot be rectified." Extolling this savage method as a "great weapon," D. Feith stressed ominously: "We have changed our opinion about the military usefulness of bacteriological weapons."

The militarist group that represents the mighty U.S. military-industrial complex is simply crazy about the arms race. For the monopolies, it has become a reliable source of income not subject to the fluctuations of crises. "The purpose of 'star wars,'" THE WASHINGTON POST admitted, "lies in the prospect of fabulous new riches for the military-industrial complex." It is well-known that without nuclear tests you cannot create "star wars" weapons...

That is obviously what lies behind Washington's position. Hence another dangerous phenomenon -- the progressive militarization, among right-wing circles, of political thought, which works primarily in terms of military strength. This is leading the administration away from the path that could lead from a peace based on weapons to a peace without weapons.

Perhaps Senator G. Hart was not far from the truth when he suggested that under the present administration it will not be possible to reach any accord in the arms control sphere. Of course, it is a pity if he, like the "circles in London" cited by THE TIMES on Friday who assert the same thing, is proved correct in this prophesy. It will be a pity if now, this year, yet another historic chance is missed along the path to ending the arms race. The negative consequences of this turn of events for world peace are easy to predict.

However, we would like to believe in the Americans' intelligence and virtue. Surely the people now responsible for their destiny are capable of rising above prejudices and dispassionately assessing the situation in the world and the good will of our country. The future can only be secured by taking into account the new realities of the modern world and turning to a new way of political thinking, intelligence, and common sense.

REPORT QUESTIONS U.S. 'INTENTIONS' AT CDE TALKS

LD260839 Moscow TASS in English 0826 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Stockholm August 26 TASS -- TASS special correspondents Vladimir Bogachev and Nikolay Vukolov report:

Charles Redman, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, has recently made a statement on the course of the talks at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, in which he was trying, in particular, to call in question the constructive character of the proposals of the socialist countries on on-site inspection.

The socialist countries have set forth at the current session of the conference their principled stand on the issue of verification of compliance with the agreements being drawn up at the forum. In development of the control concept set forth in the Budapest appeal of the Warsaw Treaty countries, the USSR and the other socialist countries have declared their preparedness to discuss the question of on-site inspection to check on the confidence-building measures on the basis of a limited quota -- one-two inspections a year on the territory of each state. The new initiative of the socialist countries has been positively evaluated by the participants in the forum. Addressing the conference on August 25, Ambassador Wolfgang Loibll, head of the Austrian delegation, said that that highly important step of the socialist countries had created a new situation at the conference and considerably broadened prospects for its successful completion.

In his turn Ambassador Viktor Gauci, head of the Maltese delegation, described that initiative as a real breakthrough in the field of international relations which will bring about considerable progress at the conference. Ambassador Aleksandare Bozovic, head of the Yugoslav delegation, has positively evaluated this approach of the socialist countries.

The statement by the representative of the U.S. State Department, in which he commented on the stance of the socialist countries, sounded, at least, a strange note, since the USA permanently declared its adherence to the idea of on-site inspection. Now that the USSR has put forward a mutually acceptable solution to that problem, the U.S. State Department has described it as a propaganda ploy. The statement by the spokesman for the U.S. State Department is a source of serious concern about the true intentions of the USA. Can it be that they are planning a last-moment attempt at preventing the attainment of agreements by giving up their old positions, including on the question of inspection?

DELEGATION MEMBER VIEWS RESULTS OF CDE CONFERENCE

AU221341 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 21 Aug 86 p 6

[Interview with Major General Viktor Iatarnikov, member of the Soviet delegation at the Stockholm conference, by Colonel V. Morozov, APN military commentator: "Stockholm: Approaching the Last Stretch" -- date, place not given; opening paragraph is paper's introduction]

[Text] The Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security, and Disarmament in Europe is entering its most responsible phase -- the phase of concluding its first stage and drawing up a final document. [paragraph continues]

Colonel V. Morozov, APN military commentator, has met with Major General Viktor Tatarnikov, member of the Soviet delegation at the Stockholm conference, to ask him for answers to some questions connected with the results of the first stage of that conference.

[Morozov] The Stockholm conference, which is now approaching its last stretch, has obtained new and fresh stimuli that bring it straight to the attainment of positive results regarding the promotion of confidence and security in Europe. What must be done to safeguard the success of Stockholm?

[Tatarnikov] As has been declared by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the time has come for all participants in the conference to display responsibility and flexibility. Only responsible mutual concessions based on the principle of equality and equal security can result in a positive outcome.

As is known, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have taken a number of steps to achieve specific results regarding the key issues of the conference. These include notification of upcoming military exercises, exchange of annual plans of military activities, invitation of observers, limitation of the scope of military exercises, nonuse of force, verification, and so forth. There was not a single session in the course of the entire last year without one of the socialist countries -- Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Romania, or the USSR -- coming up with a proposal that forwarded the work of the conference. The work of the Stockholm conference to result in generally acceptable agreements, the socialist countries are ready to continue to work in a constructive spirit and to seek the balanced solution of all questions by means of compromise.

The endeavor exerted by neutral and nonaligned countries to achieve progress at the conference must also be appreciated. The recent pronouncement by the representative of Canada, who put forward the proposals of Western countries, too, can be regarded as a political signal of the readiness to move ahead.

[Morozov] The conference has made notable headway recently. It has managed, above all, to unravel one of the entangled knots that for a very long time stood in the way of any forward movement -- the question of advance information on air force exercises. Could you expound this question in greater detail?

[Tatarnikov] The socialist countries do not employ words but deeds to demonstrate their constructive approach to the working out of confidence-building measures. Regrettably, the NATO countries absolutely refused to announce their air force exercises. There was a long and sharp struggle at the conference between these two poles in the positions of the two sides.

A compromise has been found on the basis of the determination of the lower limit [poduroven] of air force activity within the framework of notifications of exercises of ground forces, going on from which it would be necessary to supply some important data on air force exercises. I must say straight away that all participants in the negotiations contibuted to the attainment of this compromise by manifesting their political will to reach an agreement. As has been declared by the representative of Poland, in the event of such a solution the socialist countries are willing to accept the transfer of the question of the notification of individual air force exercise to [as published] the present stage of the conference, as has already been done regarding naval activity.

Now it is necessary to discuss this lower limit for the air force. Many countries -- neutral countries as well as NATO member-countries -- have repeatedly advocated a lower ceiling, which would provide more information on air force exercises. [paragraph continues]

We have considered their reasons and propose that the air parameter [letecky parameter] be 200 take-offs during the entire exercise. We are convinced that our partners will accept this proposal.

[Morozov] What agreements have already been reached at the conference concerning exercises of land troops?

[Tatarnikov] With regard to exercises of land troops, a common ground is already on the horizon. We have agreed that notifications should concern exercises of land troops carried out together with air force and naval formations, amphibious and airborne troops. Now it is only necessary to agree on the parameters of these notifications.

As is known, the socialist countries have already taken a step to accommodate the wish of many countries -- not only NATO members but also neutral countries -- by accepting reduction of the notification limit to 18,000 men. But the Soviet side is convinced that if negotiations on this topic also get into the current of generally acceptable agreements, the limit of 18,000 does not have to be the last word. We could further reduce this level, self-evidently on the basis of reciprocity. In doing so, we must remember that the parameter for notifications of exercises of land troops must be acceptable to everyone and must not in the least reduce the level of security of any country.

If we find a generally acceptable numerical level for notification, we could then find a parameter for notification concerning land troops that would apply to all its aspects [sentence as published]. Let us recall that three different approaches to the solution of the problem have been proposed at the conference. The first approach places emphasis on structure, the second on numbers, and the third on "mobility and firepower." As far as the USSR is concerned, its delegation is ready to work with the other delegations on the question of finding the best combination of these approaches.

[Morozov] The path toward confidence and security is also linked with measures of such importance as the notification of the movement of troops to the zone that is subject to the confidence-building and security-promoting measures. How is this question being dealt with?

[Tatarnikov] Such an agreement could serve as an impetus for progress on many other questions as well. It is important that the agreement rule out the possibility of the concealed amassing of troops, and, at the same time, that it provide for timely notification of the arrival of troops in Europe to carry out activities that will be subject to notification.

[Morozov] What is the possible significance, from the viewpoint of confidence-building measures, of an agreement on exchanges of individual states' annual plans of military activities?

[Tatarnikov] An agreement concerning the exchange of annual plans of military activities would become something of a sateguard against the implementation of hidden preparations for war. The socialist countries have exerted great efforts to achieve progress in discussing this confidence-building measure. The matter has gradually made headway. Considering the wishes of neutral, nonaligned, and Western countries, the socialist countries have proposed that the participating countries exchange such plans for each successive year, no later than by 15 or 20 November of the preceding year.

To find generally acceptable solution concerning confidence-limiting [as published] measures, solutions that would consider the security interests of all participating states, the socialist countries are ready to accept as a point of departure the proposals put forward by neutral and nonaligned countries.

These proposals provide many options. On one hand, there is for instance the proposal that not more than 5 announced military exercises be carried out in the course of a year in addition to the planned exercises, the scale of which would exceed 50 percent of the level that is subject to notification. On the other hand, there is the proposal that the number of such exercises not be limited if they are part of the annual plans of military activities. I am convinced that even given such heterogeneous approaches it is possible, and necessary, to find a generally acceptable agreement.

[Morozov] What is the nature of the agreement reached by the conference on the problem of verification?

[Tatarnikov] The problem of verification is of the utmost importance to the socialist countries. We want to have the certainty that the agreements we conclude will be strictly observed by everyone. That is why we want to succeed in having the agreements on confidence-building measures safeguarded by means of effective and adequate verification. On this question we are ready to go as far as will be required in the interest of the matter.

As is known, the proposals the Warsaw Pact member-countries recently tabled in Budapest contain the idea of verifying the implementation of confidence-building measures, including the idea of on-site inspection. The socialist countries are ready to negotiate the problem of inspection and are convinced that on this issue it is also possible to move ahead. It is possible, above all, to conclude an agreement in which the participating states would undertake to carry out on-site inspection aimed at confidence-building measures in the process of verifying the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons.

In conclusion I would like to stress that the only way to achieve an agreement of substance at the Stockholm conference is by means of mutual concessions. It is to be hoped that the initiatives of the socialist countries will give the appropriate dynamism to the work of the conference, a dynamism that will in the remaining weeks before the conclusion of the work of the conference on 19 September will lead to precisely such an agreement. Of course, this presupposes good-will on the part of all participants in the conference.

CHERVOV ON MILITARY VIEW OF ARMS ISSUES

PM251244 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Aug 86 First Edition p 3

["Specialist's commentary" by Colonel General N. Chervov: "Our Firm Will"]

[Text] M.S. Gorbachev's statement made an in-depth analysis of the contemporary world situation and concretized the principled tenets of our party's foreign policy elaborated at the 27th Congress. The statement is concrete proof of new political thinking, of a new approach to the problems of war and peace, of ensuring world security, and of strengthening the country's defense. It marks an important new state in the struggle of the Soviet people and the world's progressive public for the total cessation of nuclear tests, the elimination of nuclear weapons, and the improvement of international relations.

The decision to extend the moratorium confirms the earnest and sincere nature of our nuclear disarmament program. It was a difficult matter for us to make that decision, particularly in the military respect. But the CPSU did so, aware that the political benefit from such a step greatly exceeds all other considerations.

In a certain sense our decision puts the U.S. Administration on the defensive. [paragraph continues]

It tests the sincerity of the White House's approach to the problem of reducing nuclear arms and the U.S. Administration's ability to rise above its narrow mercenary interests. As is known, the White House at once -- literally the same day -- rejected any possibility of subscribing to the Soviet moratorium. The U.S. rejection of the moratorium compromises Washington's entire policy, as well as the policy of NATO as a military alliance that proclaims defense as its aim while in fact building up military preparations for aggression.

This must be reckoned with. The statement emphasized that we evaluate the situation soberly and know who we are dealing with. The country's security is a sacred matter for us. "This," as M.S. Gorbachev pointed out, "must be clear to everyone. It is a matter of principle."

The Soviet Union has the forces and means to reliably ensure the security of the country and of our allies in the face of any U.S. aggressive actions. Our love of peace is not a consequence of weakness but the result of our confidence in our own strength and potential and in the correctness of our chosen political course, which is unanimously supported by the entire Soviet people and by Army and Navy servicemen.

All kinds of falsehoods are being disseminated in the West in connection with the moratorium extension for the sole purpose of belittling the significance of our major practical step on the road to disarmament. The U.S. leaders claim, for example, that America is lagging behind the USSR and therefore must continue nuclear tests. However, such statements do not correspond to reality. The facts indicate that the United States is the champion regarding the number of explosions. It has carried out more nuclear explosions than all the nuclear powers put together. It has carried out roughly one-third more nuclear explosions than the Soviet Union.

At the same time, the United States has carried out more nuclear explosions in each individual environment (in the atmosphere, under ground, and under water). If we take just the past 2 years, the picture looks like this. In 1984, the sides carried out roughly equal numbers of nuclear weapon tests. In 1985, the United States carried out approximately 20 explosions, while the USSR, prior to the moratorium, conducted 9, of which 2 were for peaceful purposes. During the year of the Soviet moratorium the United States exploded 18 nuclear devices. These are the statistics. As you see, there is no question of any U.S. lag. Therefore, those who say that there is would really like the United States to retain the possibility of improving and creating [sozdaniye] new types of nuclear weapons and, thus, to continue the arms race.

The real reason for the U.S. Administration's reluctance to renounce nuclear explosions lies in the U.S. desire to upset in its favor the established equilibrium of forces. This is the purpose of the program to create [sozdaniye] various kinds of nuclear charges for space-strike arms under the "star wars" plan, as well as new kinds of weapons (MX, Trident 2, and Midgetman strategic missiles). There simply are no other reasons.

In addition, Western propaganda uses an unscrupulous method in connection with the moratorium -- the insinuation is being spread, for example, that the Soviet military allegedly disagrees with the CPSU decisions in the sphere of disarmament and security, particularly regarding taking unilateral measures. What can be said about this? This is, of course, an attempt to pass off what is desired as something real. There has been and is nothing of the sort.

Here, in the Soviet Union, the unified Communist Party is the leading and directing force of our society. [paragraph continues]

Military people are full and equal members of the CPSU, have a unified Marxist-Leninist world outlook, and are of like mind in solving military-political problems and in matters of military building. This does not mean that we do not have different opinions and views on these complex issues. But this is an internal matter for us. The desire of certain circles in the West to find some kind of "chinks" between the Soviet political leadership and military leadership is, quite frankly, a futile waste of time.

M.S. Gorbachev's statement and the Soviet Union's new political initiatives give Soviet servicemen still greater confidence. The decision of our party and government to extend the moratorium enhances the Soviet Armed Forces' responsibility for ensuring reliable defense and demands the further enhancement of vigilance and combat and mobilization readiness.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government entrust to us military people something of tremendous importance, on which the security of the Soviet people's peaceful labor and the possibility of successfully implementing the great plans for communist building outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress depend. It is the duty of Soviet servicemen to justify this trust and to do everything to ensure that the tasks set us are fulfilled!

ANALYST CRITICIZES U.S. APPROACH TO SECURITY

LD221634 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS -- Follows commentary by Boris Shabayev, TASS political news analyst:

On these days, the world could see particularly clearly two different lines, two approaches to the international security problem. The one to which the Soviet Union is firmly committed is that it takes major practical steps to put an end to the weapons race. And the most urgent such step is renunciation of continuing nuclear tests, to which the USSR has unilaterally adhered for more than a year now. This approach meets with understanding and support from a considerable and authoritative part of the world community. A different attitude is demonstrated by the U.S. right-wing, militaristic grouping. Upholding the interests of the powerful military-industrial complex this grouping is simply obsessed with the weapons race. Official Washington is stubbornly disregarding the present-day realities and continues banking on ensuring military superiority, on power methods of resolving the world problems. But why an end to nuclear testing has today become one of the key international issues, the historical touchstone for the maturity of these two policy lines? Because pratically all buring problems are tied here in a tight (?knot. Mankind's future depends on how) these problems are resolved. If an end is put to nuclear blasts, and the USA, in the first place, follows the Soviet Union's example, it will become impossible to create new, even more perfect types of nuclear weapons. This will put an end to the process of mankind's slipping into the abyss of a thermonuclear catastrophe.

And, on the (?contrary), continuing nuclear tests means giving a "green light" to the appearance of such sophisticated weapons systems that will be impossible to keep under control in general. At last, the mutual and controlled end to nuclear testing is a specific step towards (?creating) an atmosphere of detente and trust, without which it is difficult in general to speak of reaching serious agreements in any field. It might seem that is all so obvious that there can be no doubt on that score. Yet, the forces in Washington which make decisions on the policy of the United States are of a different opinion.

They believe that the question of a ban on nuclear testing may arise only when a broad, deep and verifiable cut in arms is achieved, and verification opportunities are bettered and steps are made towards building up trust. Washington is unable to give an answer to the simple question of how it is possible to advance on the way towards achieving these aims, without making even the first step. Washington cannot give an answer, since it puts the cart before the horse. But with such a method of harnessing, the cart will not start moving.

U.S. ABM PLEDGE 'NOTHING BUT DECEPTION'

LD141625 Moscow TASS in English 1551 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS -- What is the meaning of the U.S. proposal to extend for seven years the operation of the ABM timeless treaty? This question is put to the "NEW TIMES" weekly by Nikolay Shishlin.

What a concession, what a step toward the Soviet position can there be, if U.S. leaders responsible for SDI declare that it will take at least 9-10 years to develop and test all components of the programme.

In light of this it is obvious that the United States pledge to keep with the treaty for seven years is nothing but deception, N. Shishlin writes. It is precisely over this period that Washington plans to conduct research and tests of SDI components, in other words, to prepare the material scientific and technical base for the deployment of these sophisticated weapons in space.

There is not the slightest sign of any reassessment of the situation by the present U.S. Administration. The arms race is stepped up in all directions.

While high U.S. political leaders talk about the possibility of achieving a "great compromise", they constantly demand the build up of the U.S. military might. For what purpose? For the creation of the main prerequisite of the success at the talks with the Russians, no more no less.

The Soviet Union, as it was declared more than once, is for the holding of a new Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, it must achieve advance toward serious agreements on truly important questions of consolidating international security.

The Soviet Union backs up its political goodwill by actions, Nikolay Shishlin writes.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUND TABLE'

LD241823 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 24 Aug 86

["International Observers Round Table" program with Vadim Borisovich Kassis, editor in chief of the newspaper GOLOS RODINY and the journal OTCHIZNA; and Viktor Aleksandrovich Tsoppi, member of the editorial collegium of the weekly NOVOYE VREMYA; presented by Igor Pavlovich Charikov, foreign policy commentator of All-Union Radio]

[Text] [Charikov] Hello, esteemed comrades! Just under a week has passed since the day, or rather the evening, on which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev made his statement on Soviet television; and in the meantime this statement and the new Soviet foreign policy initiative contained in it -- the decision to extend the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until 1 January of next year -- continues to occupy the front pages of the world's major newspapers and main spots in television and radio newscasts. It gave rise to a broad response among political and public circles, too. Every day when we open our newspapers we see reports from different countries about reactions to the new foreign-policy actions of the Soviet Union. In their overwhelming majority these reactions are positive. They express support for this step and contain calls for the U.S. side to follow the Soviet example. However, there are also reactions that are negative, of course. First of all there was a negative reaction from the other side of the ocean, the very place toward which the appeal of the Soviet leadership was directed. In the course of our discussion we will talk about these things in greater detail.

Right now I would like to draw our listeners' attention to the following aspects of the issue. Few people living on our planet remained indifferent to the statement made by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 18 August, and not just because the Soviet Union had made a difficult decision to refrain from carrying out nuclear explosions for test purposes. It's not just a question of the moratorium, although in and of itself the extension of the moratorium is viewed as a major foreign-policy action. The extension of the moratorium was received as yet further evidence of the political will of the Soviet Union, of its willingness to take part in dialogue with the U.S. side. It was regarded as a new manifestation of the peace-loving character of our foreign policy and as yet another example of the Soviet Union's adherence to socialism as a social system and to the cause of the peace and security of the peoples, and of its responsibility for the fate of civilization. During just the first 8 months of this year our country, together with the fraternal socialist states, has put forward a whole series of large-scale initiatives covering different directions in foreign policy, but primarily in the field of disarmament. There is the program announced on 15 January, which deals wth the stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear weapons throughout the whole world and their further elimination by the year 2,000; there is the package of constructive proposals which the Soviet Union has placed on the table of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments. The set of measures dealing with the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals are also part of our foreign policy actions. And in his recent speech in Vladivostok, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev put forward a broad platform for ensuring security and cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region. All the actions I have mentioned -- including, of course, the extension of the moratorium of nuclear explsions -- are an integral part of our foreign policy and the system of international security, the fundamentals of which were formulated at the 27th CPSU Congress.

[Tsoppi] I think that one can state without any exaggeration, Igor Pavlovich, that new hope was born in the world last Monday -- the hope of deliverance. It is precisely the deliverance of mankind that our country was thinking about and concerning itself with when it made the decision to go ahead with continuing the moratorium on nuclear explosions. Silence will reign at our nuclear-testing sites for 5 more months -- a good silence, a peaceful silence, a silence which is to the liking of all normal people. The main thing is that having made up our minds to opt for this silence, having weighed carefully all the pro's and cons, the main thing is that we have acted in a very concrete and specific way, very constructively and very courageously, in order to prevent our planet from being plunged into the silence of the graveyard.

Bernard Lown, the world-famous U.S. scientist and humanist who is cochairman of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, had this to say when he heard about the decision announced by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: A ban on nuclear explosions is a substantial, simple, and honest step which it is possible to verify. Nuclear weapons are a tool of world destruction. Life on earth is at the brink, and banning nuclear tests is the first step in the opposite direction. Yes, it is absolutely essential that we take a step back from the brink, beyond which lies the nuclear abyss. Only that kind of step is a step forward. Quite simply, there is no other solution; we simply do not have one.

But in order for this solution to become a practical reality, we cannot go on endlessly taking steps on our own. It is essential for the United States also to march in step, so to speak, with us in the same direction, at least just once; but it seems to be rooted to the spot on that fatal brink. As we know, the first official reaction from the White House was not simply defiant and negative, for it had quite obviously been prepared in advance; it was based neither upon an analysis of our position nor on anything else of a serious nature. And it amounted to this: No, we are not going to end our nuclear tests, because that would be damaging to our security or to the security of our allies. Furthermore, this was said so quickly, so hastily, one might even say, that the allies -- with the exception, say, of Britain -- were unable even to open their mouths in order to say what they found good or bad in the decision. This is hopefully not the last word from the United States.

Well, let's hope that the intellectual paralysis that has affected the opposition partners with whom we have been linked by history will not continue forever, that they will mature to the new thinking that is equal to the nuclear age, and that they will finally begin to realize that their vital interests, too, are not to be found in nuclear death, that we live in an integral world where everything is interlinked. Today it is impossible to raise the question: Who's doing what to whom? Today it has to be understood that, being mindful of the need to end the nuclear arms race, one has to adhere to the formula that no one must do anything to anyone.

The Soviet Union, having cast aside the system of prenuclear thinking, which, as is perfectly obvious, has become prehistoric and hence unacceptable as a way of thinking, is doing everything possible in its new approach to international problems, including things that even yesterday appeared impossible. Of course, we are taking a certain risk. But we are sure that in this situation, risk is a noble thing, and that it would be very beneficial from the standpoint of the Soviet Union and the United States, and it would be beneficial for all peoples, if we were able to sign a joint agreement ending nuclear tests at a Soviet-U.S. summit meeting before the end of the current year, which has been declared Peace Year by the United Nations.

Such an event, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed, would without a doubt be the main result in real terms of a meeting and would be a considerable step toward ending the arms race. It would be a kind of prologue to further progress at talks on nuclear armaments and their elimination, to a radical improvement in the whole world situation. I think that these months which lie ahead between now and 1 January, when our moratorium will end, are going to be very difficult. The desired prologue might not take place, if one bears in mind all the elements in the present U.S. position, dictated -- let's be quite blunt -- by imperial illusions. By all accounts there's not going to be any silence to wait for on the Nevada proving ground. The United States is going to test the nuclear devices that it needs for star wars, despite the fact that, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said, we will quickly find an answer that will nullify the value of the star wars program. In short, the struggle goes on. The Soviet Union is not alone on the battlefield. On our side are ever wider circles of the international public, the whole of mankind's intellectual potential, I would say; and intellect must triumph over madness. Our new bold movement forward along this path is in and of itself a victory, and not just for ourselves: it is a political victory for the whole of the world movement against nuclear war and is a new stimulus for it.

[Charikov] Continuing our discussion of the reaction brought about in the world by the Soviet Union's decision to extend the moratorium, I think that we should nevertheless return, if only briefly, to the roots of this issue. I know, Vadim Borisovich, you have said that you were in Canada on the day and at the time that our decision on the introduction of the moratorium was announced on the first occasion, and that there you were able to sense more specifically the way in which this decision by the Soviet Government was received.

[Kassis] Yes, that is quite right, Igor Pavlovich. I was in Canada, taking part in an international conference on the struggle for peace and progress, and I had the task of presenting a report and of listening to the reports of other participants in that conference. I have to say that virtually all of them stressed that it is now up to the United States and also the other states which possess nuclear weapons to put an end to their nuclear explosions. That would be not just a tribute to the memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Geoffrey Pearson, the former Canadian ambassador in Moscow, told me. Today he holds the important post of director of the Canadian Institute for Peace and Security. He stressed that goodwill on the part of the United States must also be a real contribution to the strengthening of stability and peace on earth. In recalling that conversation today, one unfortunately has to state that -- as was noted in the statement by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee -- the United States, which for 40 years has been the champion as far as the number of explosions is concerned, has exploded 18 more nuclear devices during the year of the Soviet Moratorium -- I repeat, 18 -- of which 3 were unannounced.

[Tsoppi] The fact that we know about those three explosions shows that today it is quite possible to monitor these explosions, no matter where they take place, using national resources.

[Charikov] That is one of those arguments that are disproved by life itself, one of those arguments that have been put forward by the U.S. side against halting nuclear tests. Incidentally, after the text of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement had been received in the United States, THE WASHINGTON POST published a fairly lengthy article on this problem -- an article, I would say, that tried to justify this hasty decision by the White House to reject the Soviet initiative or in some sense even to provide it with a theoretical foundation. This is what the newspaper writes: Some people consider tests -- meaning nuclear weapons tests -- to be the ignition key of the whole arms race. Suffice it to turn this key and the engine will stop. It's a very vivid comparison isn't it? Don't you agree?

[Tsoppi] Yes, it's a vivid one.

[Charikov] The newspaper goes on to say that this smacks of pure fantasy.

[Tsoppi] Why?

[Charikov] Because, in the newspaper's opinion, in a world in which the United States has to rely on nuclear weapons for an indeterminate length of time as the means of preventing the threat of an offensive strike, it makes sense to carry out the necessary tests in order to have more reliable, compact, and stable weapons.

[Kassis] But now let's look at what was said by Senator Edward Kennedy. He said that General Secretary Gorbachev's declaration that the Soviet Union will extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests until 1 January 1987 is only to be welcomed. This decision gives both sides yet another opportunity to forestall the appearance of new nuclear weapons that are even more lethal and to embark upon the path of ending the arms race, he added.

[Tsoppi] It must be said that it is not just sensibly minded people and politicians in the United States, but also those allies whose security is of such concern to Washington that have also reacted in a way which is far from being in unison with Washington. For example, West Germany simply welcomed the Soviet decision. This is of no small importance: this is the primary ally of the United States in Western Europe.

[Charikov] Quite right.

[Tsoppi] West Germany also stated that our new initiative, our new approach, raises the chances for holding a successful summit meeting and ultimately for ending all nuclear explosions. In addition, the French paper L'HUMANITE writes that the Soviet Union's decision is in keeping with feelings that are widespread in the world: Without the carrying out of tests it is impossible to improve nuclear armaments further. Surely it's not propaganda to demand an end to progress in means of destruction -- and propaganda is what Washington declared our new proposal to be.

[Charikov] Well, to talk about the reactions in the camp of the allies, first of all I want to mention the statement by the Foreign Office, Great Britain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with which the British hastened to come out immediately, soon after the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. If you remember, they expressed regret over such a proposal from the Soviet Union and expressed the wish that it would probably be better for the Soviet Union to pay attention to Western initiatives which are on the negotiating tables in various places.

I think, you see, that when we put forward a package, as I've already said, of constructive and in many ways compromise initiatives at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva, we were indeed taking into account the interests of the Western side; while I would certainly call the hasty reaction of the Foreign Office, the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs, worthy of regret, the more so since in the British press, which reflects a considerable share of public opinion, there is no full unanimity of views regarding the extention of the Soviet moratorium. For example, THE GUARDIAN newspaper believes it to be a completely realistic and sensible step. It doesn't agree with official London's view.

[Kassis] Well, let's finally have a look at what's going on within the walls of the UN Organization. The statement by the general secretary, who, as the statement stresses, attaches extremely important significance to curbing the arms race -- in particular, the nuclear arms race -- has been circulated there. It says further that the general secretary has always adhered to the view that the attainment in the final analysis of an agreement on halting nuclear tests would serve common interests.

[Charikov] I want to quote one passage from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement, which, in my view, is very important. He said the following: On behalf of the Soviet people, I appeal to the reason and dignity of the American people not to miss yet again a historic chance on the road to halting the arms race. You see: The appeal goes to the reason and dignity of the American people. What's the point here? The whole point is that for a long time now the Reagan administration hasn't been expressing the interests of the whole of the American people -- as, incidentally, was the case with previous administration and many before it.

If, for example, we take a look at, let's say, the reaction in our country to this decision, then it is unanimous and positive. Meetings in support of the statement are taking place throughout the entire country. Yesterday, many-thousand-strong mass demonstrations in support of this decision took place in Moscow. In all of the fraternal socialist countries, the new Soviet initiative has received full support, as has already been said. And in the United States itself, as you were just saying, sufficiently reasonable and sensible voices can be heard. But in that case, whose opinion is President Reagan expressing? Whose opinion is he expressing when he rejects a most important foreign policy initiative from a main partner? That's why I think that this appeal to the reason and dignity of the American people has a definite point. I think that we once talked at this very round table about the fact that American public opinion has become substantially more mature and more sober with the passing of the years because it is now becoming more and more difficult to convince it that nuclear war is inevitable -- that's one thing -- and that it can be limited.

[Tsoppi] That it can bring victory.

[Charikov] Yes, and that one can win in it, gain a victory. The American people believe in such a demagogical formula less and less -- that war is inevitable and that it means that you can prepare for it and must prepare for it; and it is utterly unsurprising that both the Senate and the House of Representatives -- that's the whole of the U.S. Congress -- have sent a signal in various forms to the President to the effect that it's time to come to a halt on this adventuristic path. In particular, the Senate has called on the President to resume talks on halting all nuclear tests, while the House of Representatives has decided not to allocate means for all nuclear tests for a year, with the exception of very small ones.

[Tsoppi] You're perfectly right, Igor Pavlovich. Only I wouldn't start generalizing about such a decisive opposition on the part of U.S. legislators to the U.S. President. I think that the point is that U.S. politicians today feel that both for the United States and for the whole of the rest of the world the policy of the White House is counterproductive, harmful, and dangerous. Today the American people feel how everywhere, literally on all continents, a movement is growing, in unison with which our foreign policy, too, is working.

[Kassis] Yes, I would also like to turn attention to the following aspect of the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

He said: If there are no nuclear tests, then there will not be further improvement of nuclear weapons, either. Appeals addressed to the United States and the Soviet Union from a significant and authoritative section of the world community, among them the Delhi Six -- testify to this. Let us recall that the Delhi Six is a constantly functioning forum of the heads of countries of four continents: Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden. Literally a couple of days ago, in the Mexican city of Ixtapa, the representatives of the Six adopted the Mexican Declaration. This important document again contains an appeal for a halt to all nuclear explosions. The publication of it by the mass news media has caused wide response in the press, in whose comments high appraisal is given to the new and important step by the six states on the path of struggle with the peril of nuclear war. The fact that the six put forward new and important peace proposals addressed to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union is unanimously evaluated by, for example, the Indian newspaper as evidence of serious concern on the part of the participants in the Mexico meeting over the absence -- through the fault of the United States... of proper progress in the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, aimed at achieving a treaty on banning all nuclear tests.

[Tsoppi] Notice that the United States hasn't responded to this appeal.

[Kassis] Not at all.

[Tsoppi] But we have responded, in that very important statement which we are talking about now. Mikhail Sergeyevich directly connected our position with the position of these six states which today are so courageously and consistently coming out for peace, and against the nuclear danger.

[Charikov] In his reply to the message of the leaders of the countries of the Delhi Six, which was broadcast yesterday on radio and television and which is published in the newspapers today, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed that the Soviet Union has gone for a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, guided by a feeling of responsibility for the fate of mankind. If the United States were also to join the Soviet moratorium -- and our extension of the moratorium gives it an additional chance for this -- then a serious and responsible step would be made toward halting the improvement of the most destructive weapons and the accumulation of its stocks. Such a bilateral moratorium, noted Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, would undoubtedly help to ban the testing of nuclear weapons in treaty form as well. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev highly evaluated the efforts of the Delhi Six and their active work aimed at shifting from a standstill the resolving of a key question in the cause of lessening the risk of nuclear war. What's actually happening is that the members of the Delhi Six are addressing two nuclear powers, but are getting replies from only one -- replies, moreover, in deeds as well as words.

[Tsoppi] The whole world is getting replies from only one power, from us.

[Kassis] All our actions are precisely supported by specific steps.

[Tsoppi] When I say the whole world, this is no exaggeration, since, in a few days' time, in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe -- a young African state, one of the youngest -- the eighth conference of the heads of states and governments of the nonaligned countries is to take place. This, if we talk on a world scale, is a very serious movement in our present-day world.

At the outset, in 1961, when the first conference was held, it had a membership of only 25 countries, while today it comprises 102 countries with the most varied political systems and the most varied policies, because, at the very moment when that truly worldwide movement arose, its essence came to be the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, and racism, all forms of oppression, and -- what is particularly important in today's world situation -- against the danger of war, any acts of aggression, armed intervention, military pressure on young states, and bloc politics. One of the most important objectives of the movement came to be the struggle for the democratization of international life. And the current problems in the world can be resolved only through democratic discussion -- frank and serious political discussion.

[Kassis] Now let's take another area about which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke in his statement. Two tragedies, linked with the technology of the nuclear and space age, have occurred recently: the deaths of the Challenger crew and the accident at the Chernobyl AES. They have intensified anxiety and have reminded us that people are still only getting the feel of the fantastically powerful forces that they themselves have brought into being. They are still only learning how to apply them in the service of progress. These events provided an object lesson about what would happen if nuclear weapons are brought into play. Everyone, especially statesmen and politicians, ought to derive concrete lessons from it. How, then, did people in the United States react to the destruction of Challenger? President Reagan has officially announced his decision to start building a new reusable spaceship which is to replace Challenger. Its cost is unbelievable: about $2.8 billion. At the same time, the President announced that henceforth the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will not deal with commercial satellite launches though contracts with private companies. It follows from the President's declaration that U.S. vehicles of the shuttle type will be used primarily for launches that serve national-security interests.

[Tsoppi] In other words, goodbye to the peaceful exploration of space!

[Kassis] Exactly. Thus, the arms race is not slowing down. An intensified militarization of the United States and the whole NATO bloc is underway. A real threat that highly dangerous nuclear payloads will be put into space has at last appeared.

[Charikov] But then, to take those two examples -- Challenger and Chernobyl -- the only thing they have in common is what you said, Vadim Borisovich: that is, they are two tragedies which have shown mankind how powerless we still are in the event that technology gets out of control. But Challenger was aimed at quite specific militarist objectives, whereas, after all, the Chernobyl AES was a peaceful establishment. Nevertheless, even in this sphere -- in the sphere of the paceful use of atomic energy -- our country is striving to undertake any measures in order, firstly, to rule out various accidents and, secondly, in the event of really unforeseen accidents, in the event of extreme situations, to arrange international cooperation that could eliminate these consequences with all possible speed.

The other day, in Vienna, two conventions, or draft conventions, were drawn up at the initiative of the Soviet Union. These conventions may come to be the inaugural documents of a system for the safe development of nuclear-power engineering.

Like the vast majority of those attending the recent conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Soviet Union supports the idea that urgent notification should be carried out in the event of any nuclear accidents, both at peaceful establishments and at establishments of military significance, including accidents with nuclear weapons and with the testing of them. This proposal turned out to be unacceptable to the United States.

[Tsoppi] Our time is probably almost up. I should like to quote from my favorite writer, I must admit, who as responded to the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. I mean Viktor Astafyev. He said these penetrating, in my view, humane words, quote: If it is necessary to destroy the world and mankind for the sake of proving the superiority of one's own system, to die when proving the purity and loftiness of ideas, then what is the purpose of these ideas, systems, and philosophies, which have brought the world to the brink of destruction? Who will need them? There is enough space on earth for all people, and there is no need to reach for a weapon whenever there arises between us some misunderstanding or disagreement. Unquote.

[Charikov] It would, I think, be very wise if these words, which really are - I agree with you, Viktor Aleksandrovich -- simply penetrating, were to be imprinted in the memories...

[Tsoppi interrupting] ...Of those politicians who are trying to control world destiny.

[Charikov] I quite agree with you. Well now, esteemed comrades, our broadcast is at an end. On behalf of those taking part, I thank you for your attention and take my leave of you. Goodbye! All the best!

PRAVDA VERSION OF CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT BRIEFING

PM251157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Aug 86 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "The Warning of Chernobyl"]

[Text] Soviet and foreign journalists were given a short briefing 21 August on the causes of the Chernobyl AES accident and its consequences. Speaking at a press conference held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center, A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy, reported that detailed information on the causes of the accident and its consequences had been presented to the IAEA and would be reported 25 August at a conference of IAEA technical experts.

What was the cause of the dramatic events that happened in Chernobyl 26 April? Replying to this question, A.M. Petrosyants said:

"The CPSU Central Committee Politburo resolution published in the press on the basis of the government commission's report notes that the accident happened as a result of a whole series of blatant violations of operating regulations committed by workers at the AES. The station's fourth power unit was commissioned in December 1983 and had been working extremely satisfactorily -- like all the others. In 1985, for instance, the station produced 29 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity with a good coefficient of capacity utilization. It is very likely that the station's trouble-free [bespereboynyy] working led to a certain complacency and self-satisfaction. And to a certain extent this could have been an indirect cause of the irresponsibility, negligence, and indisciplline that ultimately had grave consequences.

"Before shutting down power unit number four for its scheduled 2-year maintenance the AES management planned to carry out tests on one of the turbine generators. The aim of the tests was to check experimentally the potential for using the mechanical energy of the turbine generator's rotor (after the steam had been shut off) to keep machinery running to ensure the unit's own needs during a power outage. Simply put, it was purely an electrical engineering action and had nothing to do with the reactor itself.

"Investigations have established that the quality of the test program was low, and that the program failed to make provision for the necessary safety measures. At 1400 on 25 April the reactor's emergency cooling system was shut off and the experimenters wanted to start testing right away, but at the request of a 'Kievenergo' controller shutdown of the unit was delayed and it continued working until 0123 on 26 April -- that is, the time of the accident -- with its emergency cooling system disconnected.

"The test program had not been coordinated with representatives of the reactor's chief designer, the AES's chief planner, or the leading nuclear safety scientists who were constantly present at the station. Those to blame for the accident have been severely punished," A.M. Petrosyants stressed, "but the lesson of Chernobyl will long remind us of the need for a strict, careful, and cautious approach to technology in general, and new technology in particular.

"The events at Chernobyl have posed acutely the question of norms for the ensuring international safety of nuclear power engineering. At the USSR's initiative the IAEA has prepared two conventions with the participation of representatives from the USSR and other IAEA countries: 'Mandatory Notification of Nuclear Accidents Wherever They Occur' and 'Assistance to Countries in the Event of AES Accidents.' Both these conventions will be examined at a special international conference in Vienna at the end of September."

"We believe," the journalists were told by Academician V.A. Legasov, first deputy director of the I.V Kurchatov Nuclear Power Institute, "that our sharing our experience with other countries will be useful for all our colleagues engaged in operating nuclear power projects, and we are counting on an objective, critical, and constructive discussion of this experience. We also hope to receive from the forthcoming conference of IAEA technical experts valuable proposals aimed at improving the effectiveness of decontamination work.

"The information supplied to the IAEA on the causes of the accident and its consequences," V.A. Legasov reported, "runs to two volumes. The first contains a generalized report with a great deal of data, results of measurements, and observations of everything that happened directly at the moment of the accident and immediately after. The second volume runs to 350 pages. It contains factual material on the reactor design, its technical features, and ecological and medical aspects of the problem."

L.A. Ilin, vice president of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, reported that the state of health of the people who have been treated following the accident is good; many of them are having health treatment at sanatoriums and rest homes. However, all these people will regularly undergo thorough medical checks. This work will be coordinated and directed and the research conducted by the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Radiation Medicine Center which is being set up in Kiev.

Speaking about the environmental consequences of the accident, Yu. A. Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Enviromental Control, noted that there are surface radioactive products in the zone adjoining the AES and in certain contaminated locations, but as yet these have not penetrated more than a few millimeters into the soil. [paragraph continues]

As for the state of the Dnepr basin -- which is of particular importance -- the level of radioactivity even in the Pripyat River was very insignificant. This situation was facilitated by certain special measures. The state of the water in the Dnepr basin is now being constantly monitored. There is strict radiation monitoring of all products reaching the stores and markets.

The journalists inquired about how the situation is now being monitored at the fourth unit.

"The situation is being monitored," Academician V.A. Legasov reported, "with the help of a whole series of systems specially created for this purpose and by numerous sensors."

"When will the other reactors be recommissioned?"

"This fall the first and second units at the AES will resume work. Currently the premises are being decontaminated and the equipment at these units in being inspected and prepared."

A correspondent from Bulgaria's RABOTNICHESKO DELO asked how the Soviet initiatives in the sphere of the safe development of nuclear power had been greeted in the world. Yu.K. Nazarkin, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Department for Questions of the Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Power and Space [zaveduyushchiy otdelom MID SSSR po voprosam mirnogo ispolzovaniya yadernoy energii i kosmosa], stressed that the proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev this May have received broad support worldwide. The draft conventions recently drawn up at the Vienna conference may become the fundamental elements in a system for the safe development of nuclear power engineering. The Soviet Union, like the overwhelming majority of the Vienna conference participants, advocated rapid notification in the event of any nuclear accidents, both at peaceful and military installations, including accidents, involving nuclear weapons or during nuclear weapons tests. This proposal proved unacceptable only to the United States. However, agreement was reached that notification of accidents involving nuclear weapons and during nuclear weapons tests will be provided on a voluntary basis. The draft convention on notification that has been drawn up, like the draft convention on the creation of a mechanism for providing assistance in the event of a nuclear accident, is an important step in creating an international system for the safe development of nuclear power engineering.

Thus, the accident whose details journalists have learned today, is a warning. And not only for specialist nuclear scientists and power engineers. These events, as M.S. Gorbachev general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed in his statement on Soviet television, are on object lesson about what would happen if nuclear weapons were used. The Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, which was extended yet again 18 August, places yet another barrier in the way of this threat.

ENGINEER ON PREVENTION OF CHERNOBYL LEAK

LD222218 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Aug 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast: video report by V. Makarenko]

[Text] In the series of engineering jobs which are being carried out at the Chernobyl AES, an important place is being set aside for measures to prevent leaks of remnants of radioactive substances beyond the confines of the station.

In particular, we have already told about the construction, for this purpose, of a special wall sunken in the ground to protect the underground water. But in certain places a bypass canal intersects the wall; in these cases deep-drainage bore-holes are being sunk. How do these bore-holes work?

[Druzhin] These bore-holes work on the principle of constantly pumping off water and maintaining the water-table at a fixed level. At the moment a (SVD-500) installation is in operation here; it has been designed by the Kiev branch of the Gidroproyek Institute [All-Union Planning, Surveying and Scientific Research Institute -- FBIS] of the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification. An essential batch of these machines has been manufactured in a short space of time. These machines, in practice, have done the main job here, and it must be said that qualified people are working on them. For us, the all-union Gidrospetsstroy Association, these jobs are not new; we have a wealth of expertise in carrying out these jobs, and we have gathered our best cadres here. We are working round the clock in order to fulfill the task which we have been assigned. We are working ahead of schedulE; and we will fulfill the task which we have been given, without any doubt -- I say this with confidence, on behalf of all Gidrospetsstroy representatives, we won't let our team down.

VIENNA IAEA CONFERENCE BEGINS 25 AUGUST

LD252242 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] A conference of experts on questions concerning the safe development of nuclear power engineering began today in Vienna, where the headquarters of the IAEA is situated. This is a very impressive forum. Almost 500 delegates from more than 50 states and 20 national and international organizations have gathered there. A wide circle of problems and tasks connected with ensuring the essential reliability and safety in the activity of nuclear power engineering installations will be discussed during the conference.

Atomic power stations are, of course, at the center of attention. The Soviet representatives will tell in detail of the accident at the Chernobyl AES and how its consequences were eliminated. It is expected that experts from other countries will also share similar information, for, as is known, incidents of this type have already taken place in various countries. One of the aims of the conference is to work out recommendations on extending international cooperation in the creation of a procedure for the safe development of nuclear power engineering. The conference will last until 29 August.

Legasov Details Future Energy Use

LD251951 Moscw World Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Excerpts] The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station will not make the Soviet Union give up the further utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The statement has been made by a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Valeriy Legasov, who heads the soviet delegation to the conference of the experts from member countries of the International Atomic Energy Agency that has opened in Vienna. The Soviet Union has submitted a detailed report about the causes of the accident and the efforts to eliminate its consequences to the conference, attended by delegates from over 50 countries.

The accident in Chernobyl, Valeriy Legasov said, was a misfortune for the Soviet people. It did considerable material and moral damage. Nevertheless, he went on to say, Soviet experts are sure that the utilization of nuclear energy for the needs of humanity should not be renounced. The Soviet Union, he said is interested in the useful and fruitful exchange of opinions at the Vienna meeting. [passage omitted]

IZVESTIYA PREVIEWS HARARE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

PM251427 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Aug 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial article: "Before the Harare Meeting"]

[Text] The eighth conference of heads of state and government of the nonaligned countries opens in Harare on Monday 25 August. Or rather, on that day the experts will meet. On Wednesday, the foreign ministers will joint in the discussions. And the heads of state and government will begin their exchange of opinions on 1 September.

The experience of the previous meetings shows that the leaders of the countries which make up the Nonaligned Movement focus their discussions on the most topical, most urgent political and economic problems of today -- regional and global, current and distant, long-term. The approach to these problems reflects primarily the interests of the developing countries as well as the interests of all mankind.

The forthcoming conference is a meeting at a complex, contradictory time, a turning point. Huge stockpiles of weapons have been accumulated and are continuing to grow. The developing countries are becoming more and more actively involved in the arms race. Acute clashes and conflicts continue, again mainly in the "Third World," and those affect the general international situation. Fear, suspicion, and distrust poison people's lives. The threat of nuclear war, a war which would mean the end of human history, is a crushing weight on everyone.

At the opposite pole, on the opposite flank of world policy, are the forces which oppose militarism and call for reason and a sense of responsibility, forces which fight to save mankind's future. These forces are now on the offensive. The latest example is M.S. Gorbachev's statement on extending the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions.

The Nonaligned Movement was and is one of the most influential and active peace-loving forces of today. "... It is becoming increasingly obvious," it was noted in the political declaration of the Delhi (seventh) conference, "that in today's world there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence, detente, and cooperation among states, regardless of their economc and social systems, size, or geographical location." There can be no doubt that a mighty voice of protest against militarism and the threat of war will ring out from Harare.

Now is there any doubt that the Harare conference will examine in detail the economic situation in the world, especially from the viewpoint of the continuing neocolonialist exploitation of the "Third World." The organic link between policy and economy and the need to use political means for economic decolonization and the acceleration of national economic development is the starting point for the Nonaligned movement's economic demands. "It is important," the economic declaration adopted at the fifth conference in Colombo said, "for the developing countries to use their sovereignty and their independence on a political level as a lever for achieving sovereignty and independence on an economic level. [paragraph continues]

It is the economic problems discussed at international talks which from now on will be the main aspect of international policy."

By the end of 1986 the developing countries' foreign debts will exceed a trillion (1,000 billion!) dollars. Mass unemployment, malnutrition and starvation, striking socioeconomic contrasts, the advancing ecological crisis -- that is the reality of the "Third World." While the imperialist powers try to consolidate their efforts in order to keep the developing countries in the fetters of unequal economic relations, the Nonaligned Movement is augmenting its collective actions aimed at strengthening the "Third World's" positions in the world economy, achieving genuine equality, and ensuring stable, balanced economic growth.

At all the forums of the Nonaligned Movement great attention has been devoted to the struggle against racism and the vestiges of colonialism. The fact that the eighth conference is to be held in southern Africa, in one of the "frontline" states, on the very threshold of South Africa, will undoubtedly affect the content of the debates and emphasize still more strongly the nonaligned countries' solidarity with the enemies of racism and apartheid. Along with the Pretoria regime, its Western patrons, first and foremost Washington and London, will also be held up to shame.

Under the customary procedure in the Nonaligned Movement, the country hosting the latest summit conference becomes -- until the next conference -- the coordinating country, chairman of the movement. In Harare these powers will be transferred from India to Zimbabwe, or, to personify the "change of guard," from Rajiv Gandhi to Robert Mugabe. In practice, this will mean that the pressure on the South African racists will grow and that in general the weight attached to African problems among the many issues of concern to the Nonaligned Movement will grow.

It may be that not everything will run smoothly in Harare. The heterogeneity, the diversity of the states participating in the Nonaligned Movement, their very different sympathies and antipathies, and also their differing socioeconomic and political orientations could give rise to disputes, clashes of opinion, and competition between different proposals and formulations. But let us hope their common radical, fundamental interests will prove stronger than the possible differences.

Regarding the Nonaligned Movement as an important factor in world politics and a mighty anti-imperialist, antihegemonist, peace-loving force, Soviet people wish the eighth conference of the heads of state and government of Nonaligned Countries success.

SOVIET, U.S. EXPERTS CONTINUE NUCLEAR CONSULTATIONS

LD251226 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Geneva August 25 TASS -- A second meeting of Soviet and American experts has been held here today within the framework of preliminary bilateral consultations to study the question of centres for lessening the nuclear danger. The group of Soviet experts was led by Ambassador Aleksey Obukhov of American experts -- by Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, and Robert Linhard, special assistant to the President for security affairs.

TASS CITES U.S. EXPERT WORKING NEAR SOVIET N-TEST SITE

LD221132 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Alma Ata August 22 TASS -- David Carrell, a technical expert in seismic instruments and staffer of California State University in San Diego, U.S.A. told TASS that the Soviet leadership had made an important step towards peace by extending anew the moratorium on nuclear blasts. He is now staying near a Soviet test site in Kazakhstan to take part in the joint Soviet-U.S. experiment on monitoring nuclear test ban compliance.

Carrel, said that they failed to detect a single nuclear explosion in the USSR during the entire duration of the experiment, although their instruments recorded wave lapping, wind breath and the echo of far away earthquakes.

He said there was full mutual understanding between Soviet and U.S. scientists in their joint work. It is desirable that politicians of our countries achieve the same mutual understanding.

The instruments accurately recorded the five U.S. nuclear blasts carried out at Nevada during the period of the joint work of Soviet and U.S. scientists in Kazakhstan. These facts alone are enough to convince sceptics that there does exist absolute possibility to detect tests of any yield wherever they are held.

WHITE HOUSE 'DISPLEASED' AT ARMS CURB PUBLICITY

PM251812 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Aug 86 Morning Edition p 4

[A. Shalnev article under the general heading "Toward a Future Without Wars or Weapons": "Considered Replies and Hasty Rejections"]

[Text] White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, a man who wields such influence in the President's immediate entourage that he is often called the prime minister of the Reagan administration, is displeased.

He is displeased with the press which, from his viewpoint, is paying too much attention to arms control questions when commenting on the state of Soviet-U.S. relations and assessing the prospects for their development. That is precisely what the Soviets want, Reagan argues. But the United States has its own agenda.

Regan is echoed by his immediate subordinate, White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes. There are "not just arms control questions" on the agenda of our relations with the Soviet Union, he reiterated to journalists.

Indeed, no one denies that. As two great powers, nuclear powers, the Soviet Union and the United States do indeed have much to discuss. For example, the situation in the Near East, in southern Africa, or in the Asia and Pacific region. But the two states' greatest responsibility consists in ridding mankind -- all mankind -- of the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The Soviet Union has reaffirmed by concrete actions its readiness to assume that responsibility. That indeed was how the USSR's decision to extend the unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions was received throughout the world. It is quite natural that arms control questions are again occupying the central, key place in press reports, as they should.

But that displeases the White House. The main reason for its discontent apparently is that the Reagan administration has been cornered. It has cornered itself: None of its declarations on its commitment to world peace or the need for nuclear disarmament has been backed up by a single concrete action, not one in all the current administration's 5 and 1/2 years in office.

And when the press, both the U.S. and world press, carries out another detailed, thorough, and objective discussion on arms control questions, there is nothing to do but draw a line through the column marked "U.S. actions."

There is clearly no point reminding the White House of this. As THE NEW YORK TIMES stresses, "the administration is now having difficulties imparting the necessary thrust to the public debates on questions concerning nuclear tests. Administration officials are noting that, in the public's opinion, nuclear tests are synonymous with the arms race and that the idea of ending such tests is one which impresses the public. Thus, officials face a difficult task of proving that they are right and of proving that "the continuation of tests is necessary."

Necessary to whom? To the United States and its friends and allies, the White House claims. This is not so, the Americans themselves say, and in reflection of their feelings both houses of Congress recently adopted a resolution containing what is essentially a demand that the United States accept the Soviet moratorium. This is not so, America's allies and friends are saying, and among them, according to London's THE GUARDIAN, "there are political leaders who consider a complete and general test ban to be a simple means of ending the nuclear arms race."

Then who does need them? Although the answer is an old one, it has lost none of its topicality for all that. The refusal to end nuclear tests is needed by those people for whom mountains of weapons are synonymous with mountains of money; in other words, the military-industrial complex.

But it is not only and not so much the press with which the White House is dissatisfied. Most of all it is dissatisfied with the Soviet Union which, by extending the moratorium and demonstrating once more that its words are not at variance with its deeds, has shown a statecraft of courage so necessary for progress along the path of nuclear disarmament.

Having said "no!" literally minutes after M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committe, had finished speaking on Soviet television, the White House is now bearing down on the press and, through it, the public, both in America and the world.

The White House chief of staff, who during the President's vacation is now providing the main commentaries and clarifications on foreign policy questions, also said the following: "Both sides should continue tests so long as we have stocks of nuclear weapons..."

That comment is significant. It not only confirms the administration's intention to continue explosions which, most specialists are convinced, the United States needs to step up the development [razrabotka] of "star wars" armaments. By that comment the White House is also demonstrating that it cannot abandon its utter obsession of not simply suggesting but dictating to foreign peoples and governments what they policy should be.

It only remains to be hoped that what is now being heard from California is not the last word and that the Soviet Union, and indeed the world as a whole, will yet be given a considered reply rather than a hasty one.

'MANIPULATION' OF HARRIS POLL ON SALT CHARGED

LD232056 Moscow TASS in English 2009 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Washington August 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev reports:

The more atrocious a lie the more believable it is is the old principle which seems to have been used by the Committee on the Present Danger to cook up its "sensational discovery."

What was the news for the sake of which a special press conference was called at the National Press Club? The leaders of that reactionary organization, manipulating "hard facts" obtained from a public opinion poll conducted at their request, claimed that 70 percent of the Americans approved President Reagan's decision to violate the basic stipulations of the SALT-2 treaty.

In other words, according to the committee, most of the U.S. population want ever new rounds of the nuclear arms race -- because the SALT-2 treaty and the SALT-1 interim accord have served for over ten years as a real obstacle to the quantitative buildup of the strategic arms arsenals.

Are these claims truly in accord with the sentiments and aspirations of the American people? No they are not, Donna Cartelli, a spokesman for the authoritative Harris service, told TASS correspondent. According to the public opinion polls conducted by her company, she said, the picture is very different.

As many as 72 percent of the Americans polled by the Harris service in the middle of June said that now that the U.S. and the USSR had enough nuclear weapons "to blow up each other", it was important to preserve any earlier accord helping nuclear arms control. About one half of the polled Americans voiced their worry about the consequences of the administration's decision to renounce the SALT-2 treaty.

Similar figures were produced by another poll, conducted by the ABC TV company jointly with THE WASHINGTON POST in the same month. Two out of every three respondents wanted continued compliance with the stipulations of the SALT-2 Accord. These sentiments, widespread among different sections of the American population, are manifest in an amendment approved by the House of Representatives last week, which blocked funds for the deployment of nuclear armaments over and above the SALT-2 limits.

All this clearly angers the administration and its rightwing backers and friends. They would like the American public to have a very different attitude. That was why the Committee on the Present Danger manipulated the results of the poll. The committee's chairman Charles Taylor said at the press conference that the results of the study were a warning to those on the Capital Hill who had voted for compliance with the SALT-2 accord. In other words, the committee decided to tell the law makers to toe the White House line.

Small wonder that this "warning", sounding rather like a threat, came from the Committee on the Present Danger: It includes such figures as the current director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Kenneth Adelman, Paut Nitze, adviser to the President and secretary of state on arms reduction talks, Max Kampelman, the chief American negotiator at the talks on nuclear and space weapons. This "poll", therefore, obviously belies the hand of the Reagan administration, which seems not to have given up the hope to push back the public mood in the USA into the darkest years of the cold war.

U.S. PLANNING NEW STRIKE AGAINST LIBYA

LD260854 Moscow TASS in English 0624 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Washington August 26 TASS -- The United States is preparing a new strike against Libya, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported Monday quoting a senior official of the Reagan administration, who did not wish to be named. He confirmed a WALL STREET JOURNAL report that the administration had prepared a "program of military, covert and economic actions against Libya."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes has pointedly refused to refute the report in the JOURNAL. He only reaffirmed that a high-ranking American representative had been recently sent on a tour of West European countries in order to solicit support from the U.S. allies in launching new actions against Libya.

PRAVDA: U.S. BUILDING UP MILITARY PRESENCE IN CHAD

PM251256 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Aug 86 First Edition p 5

[Tass report: "Military Influence"]

[Text] Brazzaville, 21 Aug--- According to new agency reports from Ndjamena, major new consignments of American weapons and munitions have been shipped into Chad from Pentagon bases in West Europe. Political commentators tie this expansion of direct American interference in this Central African country's affairs with recent visit to Ndjamena by Richard Lawson, deputy chief of staff of U.S. Armed Forces in Europe.

The talks between the American envoy and Habre, leader of the pro-Western regime, were held in great secrecy. Reports indicate that they discussed plans to turn Chad into a base for "American influence in the center of Africa" and of pressure on Libya. The African press notes that the U.S. Administration is attracted by Chad's strategic position, from which it is easy to monitor a vast area which includes the oil-producing regions of the Near East.

The Pentagon is strengthening its position in Chad. Arms, including Hawk and Redeye missiles and radar equipment, are continuosusly arriving there. Tens of thousands of American advisers are bveing shipped to the country. U.S. military aid to the Habre regime for this year alone amounts to $16 million.

USSR-PRC BORDER INCIDENT 'ADMITTED BY' OFFICIAL

LD230849 London DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Aug 86 p 6

[By Robin Gedye, East European Correspondent: "Gunfight at Border Hushed Up"]

[Text] A Chinese soldier was killed and another injured in a border gunfire with Soviet soldiers last month in an incident that is being hushed up as both sides seek reconciliation, according to Japanese newspapers.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow admitted yesterday that "something happened" along the 4,360-mile border with China last month and that protest notes were exchanged.

Mr Gennadiy Gerasimov said: "The Soviet-Chinese border is very long, probably the longest border in the world. Everything is quiet on this border. When incidents occur they are settled quickly. There are currently no outstanding problems."

Reports out of Beijing by the correspondent of the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, quoted a Chinese official as saying that the incident occurred on July 12 between the Soviet Union and China's far west province of Xinjiang and resulted in "extreme tension."

About 13 Soviet border guards fired on three Chinese guards who, according to Moscow, had invaded Soviet territory. Beijing said the Soviet allegation was a distortion of the facts.

The incident is being played down because of concerted attempts by Moscow to effect a rapprochement between the two countries and Beijing's apparent willingness to accede to the Kremlin's blandishments. The Soviet State planning chief, Mr Nikolay Talyzin, is due to visit Beijing in two weeks.

TRADE INCREASE BETWEEN USSR-PRC REPORTED

LD252250 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Trade between the USSR and the People's Republic of China is increasing and broadening. Our Far Eastern ships have just delivered a consignment of oil products to that country, and now the Chinese fleet is carrying the freight, the tanker (?Dadzhing), which picked up 5,000 metric tons of liquid fuel in Nakhodka, was the first to join in the cargo operations. Another two tankers from the PRC will visit Nakhodka this month.

RPC-USSR-MPR RAIL TRANSPORT TALKS CITED

OW240500 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0300 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] As reported by XINHUA, a conference on railway transport held by China, Mongolia, and the USSR ended in Ulaanbaatar on 21 August. The conference was the first of its kind in the past 20 Years.

Representatives of the three countries discussed the issues of improving transport and organizing work for delivering and accepting cargo. They signed a protocol in accordance with the results of the conference.

At the same time an annual regular meeting of the Sino-Mongolian Boundary Mixed Committee was held in Ulaanbaatar.

PROTESTS AGAINST 'NEW JERSEY' PORT CALL SUMMARIZED

PM251640 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Aug 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own Correspondent S. Agafonov dispatch under the "Topical Reportage" rubric: "A Tomahawk Raised Above Sovereignty"]

[Text] Sasebo, Tokyo -- Sasebo Bay was made to be admired. If you look down on it from the observation platform on the top of Mount Yumiharidake, which dominates the harbor, a captivating vista opens up before you: the peaceful gulf, whose mirror-like semicircle seems to be embraced by the coastline, and the city, nestling at the very water's edge. In the other direction, looking out to the open sea, there is the delightful view of one of Japan's most beautiful scenes -- the picturesque little islands of Kujukushima, looking like seedlings sown in the blue water.

Unfortunately, Sasebo has long since ceased to be a haven for poets and landscape painters. The arbiters of fashion here wear military uniform and do not speak Japanese. And the bay, so romantic from on high, is ringed with barbed wire and adorned every 300 meters with signboards bearing the prosaic inscription: "Zone of U.S. Naval Operations."

Sasebo is the largest U.S. base on Kyushu island, a port of call for nuclear submarines of the U.S. 7th Fleet and an anchorage for aircraft carriers. This is the location of a command center for controlling U.S. naval operations in "emergencies" and is the destination of the refitted battleship the New Jersey, equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles, which, according to schedule, will be mooring in Sasebo harbor on Sunday.

This ship's name appeared in the Japanese newspapers at the beginning of the year, when only the first rumors of the possibility of the battleship's visit to Japanese ports had appeared. Furthermore, even at that time, at rumor level, people were talking not about a single visit but a long-term stay by the floating monster in the land of the rising sun. The New Jersey has become a problem, an awkward topic for the Japanese mass media. Progressive antiwar organizations and opposition political parties sounded the alarm. Why? On average Japan receives around 100 U.S. warships a year. For example, atomic submarines have moored off Japanese coasts around 20 times in the first 6 months of this year alone. So why should the New Jersey attract such attention?

Summarizing the newspaper reports on this theme, as well the opinions of people I have met, the reason for the Japanese alarm is clear -- it is the presence on board the battleship of Tomahawk cruise missiles and the U.S. Navy's adoption of a new Pacific Ocean doctrine.

The Tomahawks, furthermore, are a constituent part of that doctrine. In Japan, however, sea-based nuclear cruise missiles deployed on the New Jersey represent a separate problem. It is common knowledge that the country has proclaimed the three nonnuclear principles: not to possess, produce, or acquire nuclear weapons. The visit to a Japanese port by a battleship carrying Tomahawk missiles in its armory is a direct violation of the nonnuclear principles.

To mark the New Jersey's visit a diplomatic show was staged in Tokyo on the eve its arrival. U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield was invited to a conversation with Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari. [paragraph continues]

The minister confirmed Japan's commitment to the three nonnuclear principles and asked the ambassador to treat Japan's "nuclear allergy" sympathetically, referring directly in this context to the battleship's upcoming visit to Sasebo. Mansfield took note of Kuranari's words but stressed that in accordance with the "established procedure," the United States neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons on board its warships.

The dialogue between the minister and the ambassador, published by the newspapers in the form of a brief protocol, aroused a stream of commentaries. Their main content may be summarized as follows: diplomacy is diplomacy, but nuclear weapons are coming to Japan anyway. In confirmation the newspaper ASAHI, for example, cited the evidence of Edwin Reischauer, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, on the existence of a secret accord between Washington and Tokyo on this matter. As for the New Jersey there can be hardly any doubt here, since the battleship was equipped with nuclear Tomahawk missiles in the summer of 1984.

Now let us turn to the reports of speeches in the U.S. Congress by major officials of the State Department and the Pentagon, the text of which have appeared in the Japanese press. IZVESTIYA has already written about them. We will recall that we are dealing here with the U.S. Navy's new Pacific doctrine in which the Far East, including Japan, is assigned the role of "second front" in a war against the USSR. According to the Pentagon strategists' schemes, the deployment of Tomahawk nuclear missiles on board ships of the 7th Fleet will considerably increase America's offensive capability and will provide a powerful new first-strike potential and ensure nuclear superiority in the region. Reporting these plans, ASAHI rightly noted that if that happens Japan will inevitably be turned into a target for a retaliatory strike and will become a hostage of Washington's nuclear strategy. The New Jersey's visit to Sasebo is one milestone on that path.

Furthermore, the Japanese press notes that it not only the battleship's nuclear Tomahawks which pose a danger to Japan but its conventional armaments, too. "The New Jersey," ASAHI commentator T. Taoka believes, "is the ideal means for carrying out landing operations, since its guns can neutralize coastal defense more effectively than aircraft. America's plans for a landing on the Kuril Islands and Sakhalin are well known. The New Jersey is indispensable to their implementation. By all accounts, Sasebo is being turned into a center for staffing a shock assault group, with the New Jersey as a flagship. If there is a conflict, Japan will inevitably be drawn into it."

The commentator's conclusion is more than convincing. It is based on a sober assessment of the situation. Unfortunately, it is not one which prevails in official Tokyo today. Certain forces in Sasebo are by no means aware of their hostage status. The main tasks of the mayor's office and the police, as I was informed at city hall, are to localize protests by progressive forces and prevent disorder during the New Jersey's stay in the port. The main concern of storekeepers is the anticipation of large profits from the American sailors.

Koji Matsuo, a local businessman and chairman of the trade association, explained to me his "economic concept" of Sasebo, according to which the prosperity of the city's residents depends directly on the effectiveness of th military base. According to his logic, the more Americans there are stationed in Sasebo and the more often U.S. warships visit the port, the more satisfactory the local inhabitants' lives will be. This could be called powder keg optimism of making merry in the face of disaster. But it is not a matter of definitions. Matsuo was philosophizing without a trace of irony, seriously, and convinced that he was right.

Is this a case of indifference? Short-sightedness? or the hope that "luck will out." I put these questions to Takeichi Sasaki, a leader of the society for the study of military questions in Sasebo.

"Probably all three together," he replied. "And that today is a crime. The price may prove too high. The true patriot thinks about his country's future. Our future means a peaceful Japan without battleships, U.S. bases, or Tomahawks. Otherwise there will be neither peace nor calm. I am convinced that there are more of us than of those who are indifferent. The New Jersey will be met not only by storekeepers but by a powerful protest demonstration in which many thousands of people will take part. The battleship's path will be blocked in the straits by 50 peaceful fishing boats. We shall struggle!"

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

OW221225 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Economic observer Alekseyev commentary]

[Text] Listeners: In his speech in Vladivostok on 28 July, CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev outlined the program for extensively developing economy in the Soviet Far East. In this connection, economic observer Alekseyev states as following:

The USSR and Japan are two neighboring countries. This fact, which is known even to primary school student, is a favorable factor for extensively promoting trade and economic exchanges between the two countries. Of course, it goes without saying that this geographical advantage alone is not sufficient to achieve this purpose. However, there are other favorable factors in the Soviet Far East.

The Soviet Far East located in Japan's neighborhood is abundant in natural resources by Japanese industry. At the same time, economy of the eastern part of the USSR is being developed by taking advantage of international division of work. These two advantages can last for a long time. Although Japan is constantly improving its industrial structure, it will always be in need of raw materials.

Japanese observers have pointed out other reasons why Japan should pay attention to and regard the USSR as its major trading partner. For example, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN pointed out last February that Japanese business circles had come to entertain greater expectations for Soviet enterprises due, mainly to the yen's appreciation and aggravated trade and economic frictions between Japan on the one hand and the United States, the European Community, and other countries on the other.

The program for accelerating social and economic development in the USSR has created good conditions for developing economic exchanges between the USSR and Japan. According to the 5-year program, the total amount of orders for equipment that the USSR can place with Japanese enterprises for constructing and modernizing enterprises will amount to several billion dollars.

The Soviet Far East will be the first to be involved in this process. There is a trend for economic development in this region and this trend will further develop in the near future. In this connection, General Secretary Gorbachev confirmed this fact in his speech in Valdivostok and stressed the significance of cooperation in production with Japan, the region's largest trading partner.

Among the major issues concerning the economic development in the Soviet Far East, we can point out, are forming advanced complexes in the field of utilization or maritime resources, constructing large-scale enterprises for exploring and processing precious raw materials, and promoting infrastructure projects, including ports; that is, solution to basic framework. The USSR and Japan have been promoting economic cooperation on this basis, and through such cooperation, the two countries have reaped great benefits. However, the two countries should not be satisfied with cooperation of this type. To upgrade this cooperation to a new stage, it is necessary to promote cooperation of new types, and conditions for promoting new types of cooperation have been created.

In his Vladivostok speech, General Secretary Gorbachev suggested that the Soviet Far East no longer be regarded as merely a base for raw materials and stressed that vast potentials of raw materials in the region should be utilized in building industrial enterprises for producing, at least semi-finished products, and, ideally, finished products. Thus, emphasis is laid on building powerful enterprises that are well equipped for producing excellent products, including those for export. This fact also conforms to the objective trend in Japan of attaching increasing importance to importing semi-finished as well as finished products. To deal in large amounts of these products will not only promote trade but also correct imbalances in bilateral trade.

Another task, that is, promotion of coastal trade with Japan, should be discussed here. Prior to promoting trade in the Far East, we have accumulated much experience in promoting coastal trade with Japan. It will be necessary to reform new advanced forms in economic exchanges, including cooperative production and joint ventures.

These proposals were brought up by the Soviet side at the Soviet-Japanese economic conference held in Moscow last July. The Japanese side indicated great interests in them. General Secretary Gorbachev confirmed in Vladivostok that the USSR is ready to seek new forms of cooperation.

The USSR has proposed to Japan for getting under way the [words indistinct] cooperation in science and technology. In promoting such cooperation, the USSR is ready to share on a reciprocal basis the outcome of basic researches as well as a series of advanced technologies in the industrial field. For example, the Soviet achievements in the development of space for peaceful purposes have been widely recognized. Meanwhile, Japan has begun to pay greater attention to this field. By concentrating mutual efforts in this field and exchanging useful experience, the people of the two countries should make each other affluent and contribute to the development of science and technology in the world.

Moreover, as a maritime nation, Japan is naturally interested in cooperation in exploration of maritime resources. We cannot but notice that there are man-made obstacles, in addition to [words indistinct] barriers, tht have been imposed on cooperation in science and technology. That is the sanction against expert to the USSR of some high-tech products. This policy has only made the international trade more complicated, and it has deprived the capitalist countries, under intensified [words indistinct] conditions, of their partners in construction work. In this connection, it has resulted in losses for capitalist countries. For example, as a result of following the United States in adopting the trade sanctions against the USSR, Japan has lost at least $4-$5 billion, as estimated by economists.

It has been proved on several occasions in history that any attempt to gain political concession from the USSR through economic pressure is of no avail. The Soviet economy is powerful and stable enough to counter such pressures. The USSR is independently capable of securing what it needs. However, the USSR has always maintained that whenever division of work is beneficial to each other, efforts should be made to take advantage of international division of work.

About the General Secretary Gorbachev's Vladivostock speech, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN stated that under [words indistinct] conditions, the strengthening of Japanese-Soviet cooperation in the economy should be welcomed. The Soviet side will always welcome such interests. It also indicates that Soviet and Japanese economists will be able to find out where to compromise if only no man-made obstacles are put up in trade.

JAPAN TRANSFERS SPECIAL NAVAL TECHNOLOGY TO U.S.

ID210709 Moscow TASS in English 0655 GMT 21 Aug 86

[Text] Tokyo August 21 TASS -- Bowing to pressure from overseas, Tokyo has granted the Pentagon ever broader access to newest Japanese achievements in science and technology. It is now going to hand the United States technology for building a special military tanker for U.S. carrier-based naval task forces, the newspaper NIHON KEIZAI reported. The deal will most likely be closed at private level, between Pennsylvania ship-building, a contractor of the U.S. Defense Department, and the Japanese concern Ishikawajima-Harima which specializes in building oil tankers. The official decision on the matter is expected later this month.

Military technology transfers is the area among the main topics to be discussed by Yuko Kurihara, chief of the Japan Defense Agency, with senior Pentagon officials when he visits Washington early next month. He intends to use the opportunity to reaffirm the Japanese Government's earlier commitments to the Reagan administration in this field.

Tokyo's willingness to satisfy importunities by the United States, which is eager to take advantage of the scientific and technological potential of its far eastern ally to make faster progress in the development of arms, has whetted the appetite of overseas "hawks" even further. They aim to involve Japanese experts in the ominous "star wars" efforts on a large scale and subordinate Japan's advances in developing lasers, computers and communications to their aggressive plans.

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES CABINET

LD260903 Moscow TASS in English 0646 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Tokyo August 26 TASS -- President Chon Tu-hwan of South Korea has made a reshuffle of the country's cabinet, sacking almost a half of the cabinet members. South Korea's representative to the U.N. Choe Kwant-su has been named new foreign minister.

The fresh reshuffle of the Seoul cabinet has been motivated by Chon Tu-hwan's wish to strengthen his positions, which are staggering as a result of the blows of the movement for democracy and withdrawal of the U.S. occupation corps, which is gaining momentum in the south of the Korean peninsula.

ASAHI SHIMBUN CITED ON GORBACHEV VISIT TO INDIA

OW260139 Tokyo KYODO in English 0124 GMT 26 Aug 86

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 26 KYODO -- The mass circulation newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN, quoting a number of diplomatic sources here, reported Tuesday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit India in mid-November to further strengthen ties between the two countries. The ASAHI also said the visit will be aimed at improving relations between the Soviet Union and China, while seeking a solution to a long-running territorial dispute regarding the China-India border. Gorbachev's visit is also being made in return for the official trip to the Soviet Union last May by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has maintained India's traditional good relationship with the Kremlin, the newspaper said. It is unlikely, however, that the soviet leader will visit other Asian countries at the same time, the ASAHI added.

The Foreign Ministry here also confirmed the possibility of the visit, saying the Kremlin is keen to follow up Gorbachev's major speech delivered on July 28 in the Soviet Far Eastern city of Vladivostok in which he stressed the need to improve Moscow's relations with China. In 1959, a territorial skirmish in the Himalayan region on the China-India border led then Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev to side with India, which caused a cooling in relations between Moscow and Beijing, the newspaper said.

TATLIYEV-LED DELEGATION VISITS MADRAS

PM260820 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Aug 86 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent O. Kitsenko report: "Friendship Demonstration"]

[Text] Delhi, 21 Aug -- Meetings between the working people of Madras and members of the Soviet public delegation headed by S.B. Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, were a clear demonstration of the friendship that exists between the two peoples. Many of the city streets were decorated with the Soviet and Indian flags and banners proposing toasts in honor of Indian-Soviet friendship.

Central government ministers, members of Parliament and the state legislature, and representatives of political parties and public organizations took part in a public meeting held in one of the city's largest halls. The formation of a branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union Society in the Tamil Nadu State was officially announced.

Indian-Soviet friendship is an important asset of our peoples, ministers and representatives of political parties addressing the meeting said. The Soviet peace initiatives aimed at curbing the nuclear arms race and totally eliminating nuclear weapons and the proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostok on forming a security system in the Asian and Pacific region were particularly highly appraised in the speeches.

AFGHAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL TO BEGIN 'THIS FALL'

BK231346 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Tokyo, Aug 23 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union will begin pulling out 8,000 of its troops from Afghanistan this fall, a senior Soviet official said in an interview published here Saturday. Valentin Falin, president of the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, made the disclosure Friday in an interview with Japanese news organizations, including the major daily ASAHI SHIMBUN. Mr Falin's remark followed Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's Asian initiative speech last month in Vladivostock, in which he said the Soviet Union would withdraw six regiments from Afghanistan this year.

AFGHAN SERVICEMEN RECOUNT VICTORIES IN COMMENTARY

PM241832 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent D. Meshchaninov "Reportage from Afghanistan": "Special Brigade" -- first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] The fraternal Afghan people celebrated Restoration of Independence Day and DRA Armed Forces Day 19 August. To mark the festivities and for their combat services in defense of the gains of the April Revolution the Afghan Revolutionary Council has awarded the honorary title "Hero" to the 37th Airbone Assault Brigade, the 322d Air Force Fighter Squadron, and the 2d Border Brigade. The same day the title Hero of the DRA was awarded to Fayz Mohammad (posthumously), former member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of nationalities and tribal affairs; Major General Ahmad Dirnu (posthumously); Naval Captain Sheerzamin; and Lieutenant Zhum Khan, platoon commander with the 37th Airborne Assault Brigade. An IZVESTIYA correspondent recounts the daily lives of the servicemen in this unit.

Kabul -- I was advised to visit the 37th Airborne Assault Brigade by Lieutenant General Zabiullah Ziyarmal, chief of the Afghan Army Main Political Directorate. That evening, he said, two battalions were returning after combat operations near Kabul. Next morning -- Friday -- I visited the airborne assault troops. And although it was a day off in the DRA the servicemen were busy. Soldiers were repairing the barracks, improving the unit's territory, and preparing equipment and weapons for new combat clashes.

Lieutenant Colonel Zargam, chief of the political unit, invited me into the combat glory room, where servicemen who had distinguished themselves in fighting had assembled. He himself, as I already knew, was a graduate of the Kabul Military Academy and the holder of two combat orders and three medals. Zargam was short and stocky with a kind face and thick lips.

I was told that the lieutenant colonel had taken part in many battles and repeatedly shown courage and valor. The soldiers like him. During an Afghan Army operation to eliminate a dushman lair in Zhawara region the chief of the political unit personally headed the rout of an enemy command post. He was seriously wounded during the action.

"So," Zargam started, "first of all a few words about the brigade's function. Our unit is a special one. It has its own zone of responsibility, where we conduct operations to rout gangs. That is the main thing. But our brigade is also involved in combat operations with other Afghan Army units. As the saying goes, from one battle to another!"

The chief of the political unit introduced me to Lieutenant Zhum Khan, commander of the second platoon. He is 22 and a PDPA member. He has already been in the army 5 years. He served as a private and then, staying on after the draft, became a sergeant. A year later he was given a commission in recognition of his special services. He has been awarded three combat orders, medals, and a Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan Central Committee Badge of Honor.

"Was it tough in battle?"

The lieutenant shrugged his shoulders.

"Of course it was. But time is on our side. Judge for yourselves. Previously when we routed dushmans we would find lists of gang members. They would number several hundred people. Now there are no more than 20 or 30. The enemy's tactics are changing too. The dushmans no longer engage in open fighting. When they encounter our subunits they down arms and try to hide in secret hiding places..."

Alongside the lieutenant was the tall smart Abdulla Khaksar -- a private in the 1st Battalion's 3d Platoon. He served his draft immediately after the victory of the revolution. He had worked for a certain time in Qandahar Province. But 2 years ago he returned to the army. He has been nominated for a government award for his bold action.

"The commander is right, "Abdulla smiled. "The dushmans cannot withstand our onslaught. The battalion was once on operations in Herat Province. Surrounding a gang, we found a great deal of heavy arms but the dushmans themselves seemed to have vanished into thin air. We scoured the hillside and finally discovered a narrow track covered with stones. Several dozen bandits were hiding in a deep cave. They were quaking with fear. There was also a stockpile of small arms, mines, and grenades there, all of them made in the United States, Britain, Italy, or Pakistan."

I told the assault troops that in the West and Pakistan it is claimed that the Afghan Army is poorly trained for battle and that the struggle against the dushmans is conducted only by Soviet troops.

"That is an obvious lie," Zargam heatedly protested. "Yes, our friends help us! But we carry out many operations independently. For instance, we conducted joint combat operations with the 8th Infantry Division in the Barik Ow area. We participated in a highly complex operation in Khowst District. A dushman operational headquarters, which was directing the operations of bandit formations in the provinces of eastern and central Afghanistan, was located there in the inaccessible Zhawara mountain region...

"I already knew that there was an entire reinforced area in Khowst with three powerful defensive lines and dozens of underground weapons dumps and food and medicine stores. A radio center was also fitted out there, from where anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda was conducted. In the training center Western 'specialists' trained the bandits to murder and carry out acts of sabotage. There were also vehicle repair and arms workshops and an ammunition plant equipped with modern machine tools and an automatic flow line. The bandits felt completely safe. There was heavy fighting in Zhawara. During the operation Afghan servicemen killed more than 2,000 bandits."

I asked the assault troops to talk about recent clashes. They had just returned from fighting in Paghman District, Kabul Province, and Seyyedabad District, Vardak Province. There the Afghan servicemen had routed several bandit formations which had been terrorizing the local populace.

Zhuma Khan handed me a summary of the results of the operation in Vardak Province. The bandits had lost 31 men in this region. Twelve stockpiles of arms, ammunition, food, and medicines had been discovered there. Among the trophies were 6 heavy machineguns, 5 grenade launchers, 8 rocket-propelled projectiles, 230 mines, 60 kg of explosive, and more than 200,000 cartridges.

I asked about losses.

"One man was blown up by a mine," Zargan replied with a sigh, "and one was wounded. Several years ago we lost many comrades in similar operations. But experience, detailed planning, and training for combat operations have made it possible for us to minimize our losses."

Under the leadership of the PDPA Central Committee the combat might of the DRA Armed Forces, which are a decisive force in achieving victory over the counterrevolution, is being strengthened thanks to assistance from Soviet servicemen. Recently dushman gangs have suffered crushing defeats in Qandahar, Laghman, Herat, and Nangarhar Provinces and in the Khowst District.

Just 2 days later I again visited the assault troops. But I did not find my acquaintances. They had flown off on operations. At that very moment a fierce battle was under way somewhere in the mountains. A battle for the peaceful future of long-suffering Afghanistan.

CAMBODIAN DELEGATION CONTINUES ACTIVITIES IN USSR

Visit to Uzbekistan

LD241501 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] A delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea led by Chea Sim, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the assembly, today ended a visit after acquainting itself with the life of the Uzbek working people.

The guests paid a visit to the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet, visited the Tashkent branch of the Central Vladimir Ilich Lenin Museum, had meetings with workers of a porcelain works, and visited a major cotton growing kolkhoz.

Talks at Supreme Soviet

LD252302 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 25 Aug 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which has returned to Moscow from a trip around the country, today had a conversation at the USSR Supreme Soviet. Soviet and Kampuchean parliamentarians exchanged information on the activities of the two countries' supreme legislative bodies and discussed questions connected with further cooperation. During an examination of topical international problems, much attention was devoted to questions concerned with strengthening peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and to Soviet initiatives envisaging the region being brought into a process for the creation of an all-encompassing system of international security.

Chea Sim, the head of the Kampuchean delegation, stressed that their meetings and conversations on Soviet soil had been a further vivid manifestation of the sincere sentiments of friendship and comradliness binding the peoples of the Soviet Union and Kampuchea. Comrade Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other officials took part in the conversation.

Received by Demichev

LD251746 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] On 25 August, Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received in the Kremlin a delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea headed by Chea Sim, member of the Central Committee Politburo of the People's Revolutionary Party, chairman of the assembly. Satisfaction was expressed at the high level of development of Soviet-Cambodian relations, the foundation of which is the ideological-political unity of the two fraternal parties. A unity of views in evaluating the present complex international situation was confirmed.

Great attention was devoted to questions of strengthening peace and stability in Asia and in the Pacific Ocean basin. Both sides stressed the exceptional importance and topicality of the USSR proposals which provide for the creation of an all-embracing international security system in that region. The implementation of the new Soviet initiatives which were put forward in Vladivostok would enable conflict to be overcome in Asia and the Pacific Ocean and an end to be put to confrontation. This would create favorable conditions for the wide-ranging development of peaceful, mutually beneficial cooperation among all countries of that part of the world.

Chea Sim News Conference

LD251750 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS -- Studying the experience of communist construction in the USSR is of much interest from the standpoint of using it in the course of revolutionary change in Kampuchean society, Chea Sim, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and chairman of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, told a news conference here today. He is in Moscow at the head of a delegation from his country's National Assembly on a visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Chea Sim said the latest peace initiatives set forth by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech in Vladivostok and his statement on Soviet television on August 18, including the decision to extend a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions till January 1, 1987, are aimed at strengthening peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region and the world over. These initiatives, he said, serve the purpose of normalizing the situation in South East Asia, stopping the arms race and delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

Chea Sim spoke in detail about the results of the delegation's visit to the USSR, during which it had been received by Petr Demichev, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and a first vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and other Soviet leaders.

He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for supporting the peace initiatives for the three countries of Indochina workded out at a traditional meeting of the foreign ministers of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam. These inititatives, Chea Sim said, are directed at fostering good neighbourly relations among all countries of the region, enhancing peace, stability and cooperation in South East Asia and promoting equitable dialogue among all South East Asian nations and will facilitate efforts to improve the situation in the region and establish a security zone in the area of the Thai-Kampuchean border.

LIGACHEV, VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR DISCUSS COOPERATION

LD221824 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today received Dinh Nho Liem, SRV ambassador to the USSR, at the latter's request. A friendly conversation took place on several issues involving Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation.

OBSERVANCE OF ROMANIAN LIBERATION DAY NOTED

Text of Greetings

PM251214 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Aug 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the RCP and Romanian president, and Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, Romanian prime minister:

Esteemed Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the entire Soviet people send you, the RCP Central Committee, the Council of State, the Romanian Government, and all the country's working people cordial greetings and best wishes on the national holiday -- Romania's Day of Liberation from the fascist yoke and the 42d anniversary of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution of social and national liberation.

The decades that have elapsed have been marked by profound revolutionary transformations in the Romanian people's life. The fact that the working class and all the country's working people under the leadership of their vanguard -- the Communist Party -- have turned Romania in a historically short period into a country with a modern industry and agriculture and a developed scientific and cultural base is evidence of the immense transforming power of socialism. It is also convincing confirmation of the great importance of the friendship and close cooperation between our peoples for their successful onward movement along the road of progress.

The scaling of the new heights of development and the entire present-day situation persistently demand a buildup in collaboration among the fraternal socialist countries. Guided by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid, and the collective documents of the socialist community countries, we will continue to do everything to expand and deepen relations between the CPSU and the RCP and between the USSR and Romania, relations, which are founded on the principles of socialist internationalism and commonality of ideas and goals.

Our parties, countries, and peoples are united by an unswerving desire to maintain peace. The program for the complete and universal elimination of nuclear and other types of mass destruction weaponry by the end of this century, supplemented by the new joint initiatives at the recent Budapest conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, opens up realistic prospects for ending the arms race and fundamentally improving the international situation. The close and effective coordination of the action of the USSR, Romania, and all the fraternal socialist countries in carrying out their coordinated foreign policy course, and the development of cooperation wih other peace-loving states and social forces are the most important prerequisite for attaining the noble goal of saving mankind from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and building a secure world for all.

On the national holiday we wish you and the entire fraternal Romanian people success in fulfilling the tasks set by the 13th RCP Congress of building a developed socialist society, and we express confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Romania will develop and strengthen in the interests of our people and the cause of socialism and peace.

The CPSU Central Committee; The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; The USSR Council of Ministers

Envoy Hosts Reception

LD232216 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Aug 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast; talk by Traian Dudas, Romanian ambassador to Moscow, marking "the anniversary of Romania's liberation from the fascist yoke, the 42d anniversary of its antifascist and antiiimperialist revolution and its social and national liberation"; in Romanian with superimposed Russian translation -- recorded]

[Text] Esteemed comrades, dear friends: The 42d anniversary of the victory of the antifascist and antiimperialist revolution -- an historic event which led to social and national liberation and opened the way to the construction of a socialist society in Romania -- is being celebrated by our people in an atmosphere of creation, closely rallied around the RCP, The revolution on 23 August 1944 was the result of a long revolutionary struggle by the Romanian people. Organizing and guiding the revolution, the RCP worked in favorable conditions createdby the brilliant combat victories of the Soviety Army, which played a crucial role in the victory over fascism, by the countries in the anti-Hitler coalition and by all antifascist forces.

Over the past 42 years the Romanian people have achieved outstanding results. Romania has been transformed into an industrial-agrarian country with a modern industry, a developed socialist agricultural sector, and a rich spiritual life. The current 5-year plan heralds a new stage in the country's social and economic development: Industrial output is growing by 40-45 percent annually, agricultural output by 35-40 percent, and national income by 8-10 percent.

Our country pursues an international policy fully in line with the programs for social and economic development, resolutely advocating a halt in the arms race, and peace and cooperation between peoples. Romania actively supports the nuclear disarmament program proposed by the USSR, and advocates the implementation of a comprehensive program of universal disarmament.

Romania gives prominence to tasks concerning cooperation and friendship with all the socialist countries. We devote special attention to relations with the Soviet Union, and these are developing in a constantly ascending direction in the political, economic, scientific-technical and cultural spheres. Implementation of the accords arrived at during the talks between comrades Nicolae Ceausescu and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on the occasion of the friendly visit to the USSR by the leader of our Party and our state will facilitate a considerable growth in trade, the deepening of production cooperation and specialization, and intensification of the comprehensive cooperation between our parties, countries and peoples.

I wish you, dear friends, new and significant success in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, and in the struggle to end the arms race and to ensure peace and international security.

Thank you for your attention.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS EGYPT 21-24 AUG

LD241830 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Petrovskiy visited Cairo 21-24 August. During meetings with Egyptian Prime Minister Lutfi, deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'abd al-Majid, and other officials the two sides discussed the prospects for an all-embracing and fair settlement in the Middle East and the convening of an international conference for this purpose. They also examined other topical international questions and questions concerning Soviet-Egyptian relations.

Further Reportage

For further reportage on Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy's visit to Egypt, including his meetings with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and with 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, see the Egypt section of the 25 August Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT.

PROGRAM DISCUSSES U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

LD221953 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Aug 86

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Rafael Arutyunov]

[Text] Washington [words indistinct] in rejecting the Soviet Union's call for a moratorium (?on nuclear tests). It appears (?from statements) by U.S. officials that the United States is determined to continue nuclear tests and to attempt to ensure military superiority. The United States seeks to achieve such an objective not only so as to confront the Soviet Union, for the United States has repeatedly used its military power against sovereign states, including the Arab countries. There are several examples. For instance, today is the first day of the U.S.-Egyptian joint exercises in which three aircraft carriers of the U.S.-Egyptian joint exercises in which three aircraft carriers of the U.S. 6th Fleet are taking part. The Aircraft carriers include Forrestal which has sailed from the French port of Cannes, accompanied by warships, for the [word indistinct] shores. REUTER reports that U.S. officials have declined to comment on the exercises. This confirms assumptions by observers [words indistinct] on the muscle flexing in the eastern Mediterranean.

Observers recall that the United States held similar military preparations in April on the eve of its piratical air raids against Libya. The U.S. press recently raised a propaganda furor regarding alleged Libyan terrorism. The United States resorts to such a pretext and has for several years been carrying out subversive activity against Libya to destablize the topple Al-Qadhdhafi's government. However, missiles, or the hostile campaign of intimidation will not achieve such objectives. The Al-Qadhdhafi government has not succumbed or submitted to the U.S. will and will continue in its anti-imperialist policy. Many observers ask: Are preparations being made now to deal a new blow to the Libyan Jamahiriyah?

The distinguishing characteristic of the U.S. military exercises in the Mediterranean is Egypt's participation in the second stage of the exercises.

It is well known that the United States has long sought to draw Egypt into its military arrangements in the area. The aim is crystal clear: to make Egypt confront the other countries in the area that reject U.S. military presence and condemn U.S. armed provocations and U.S. interference in the affairs of sovereign states.

Washington has not disguised its dissatisfaction that Egypt has recently sought repprochement with the rest of the Arab world. Egypt has repeatedly called for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned including the PLO and the Soviet Union. Yesterday, Usamah al-Baz, chief of the Egyptian president's office, called for the Soviet Union's participation in an international conference on a Middle East settlement. Such a stand by Egypt does not please Washington. The U.S. Administration wants to tie Egypt to the Camp David accords forever and prevent it from exercising the right of free choice -- despite the fact that the Camp David policy has brought a Middle East settlement to an impasse.

KRAVTSOV WELCOMES LIBYAN PEOPLE'S CONGRESS GROUP

LD230807 Moscow TASS in English 0753 23 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow August 23 TASS -- The delegation of Libya's General People's Congress led by Abd al-Bazzaq al-Sawsa', deputy secretary of the General People's Congress, arrived in Moscow on August 22 at the invitation of the USSR parliamentary group.

At the airport, the delegation was met by Boris Kravtsov, chairman of the Soviet-Arab section of the USSR parliamentary group, other officials and also Muhammad Husni Sha'ban, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah in the USSR.

On the same day, the guest left for a tour of the country.

AL-GADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED ON U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

LD222238 Moscow TASS in English 2219 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] New York August 22 TASS -- the United States barbarous aggression against Libya has not broken the Libyan people's will. Quite the contrary, the aggression has made the Libyan people more resolute in the struggle for freedom and independence, leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in an interview to the NBC-TV network. The U.S. bombing of Libyan territory convinced us that it is precisely Zionism and imperalism that embody all evil on earth, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said. He expressed gratitude to peoples of the world who proclaimed their solidarity with and support for Libya at the time of trial for it. Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed Libya's strong support for the lawful struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination.

COMMENTARY REPORTS ISRAELI MOVES ON TABAH

PM211322 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Belyakov dispatch: "Dispute Over Tabah"]

[Text] Cairo, 20 Aug -- The Israeli Government has approved the preliminary drafting of the terms of an agreement with Egypt to send the issue of Tabah to international arbitration. As Prime Minister S. Peres declared, the agreement, which is expected to be signed at the end of the month, will open up the way to organizing his meeting with President H. Mubarak of Egypt. People in Israel reckon that that meeting will help to "defrost" relations between the two countries and, in particular, to return to Tel Aviv the Egyptian ambassador recalled in protest at the aggression in Lebanon.

This is also what the United States is reckoning on, having undertaken vigorous efforts in recent months to "blunt the disagreements" of the sides at the talks on this disputed section of the Sinai Peninsula which Israel refuses to return to Egypt -- talks which have dragged on for more than 4 years.

However, the sentiments in Cairo are different. While not rejecting the possibility of an Egyptian-Israeli summit meeting, at the same time the local press points out that Tabah is not the only obstacle in the way of normalizing relations between the two countries. The newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes that for this Israel must cease its repression of Palestinians on the occupied lands and its aggressive allies in Lebanon. Tel Aviv has no intention of doing either, as is known.

PREPARATIONS FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT REPORTED

MB251121 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] On 26 August in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, the eighth Nonaligned Movement (NAM) Summit for heads of state and government will commence. Please listen to a report sent to us by our reporter (Yuriy Faraniyev) on this matter.

Even though a few days remain before the commencement of this summit, all the preparations have been completed in readiness to receive the attending delegations. In this meeting delegations from 101 countries who are members of the Nonaligned Movement will be present. The main thrust of the agenda of the summit will deal with ways and means to promote and strengthen international peace and security the acceleration of the campaign for nuclear disarment to promote progress and the eradication of capitalist colonialism and imperialism along with the philosophy of apartheid.

Delegates to this summit will forge new strategies for in support for the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia. They will also discuss the problems of recently decolonized countries, such as international relations and the escalating foreign debt problem, with a view to establishing a new international economic order where the principle of sovereignty of all states will be observed.

One of the delegates to the summit who has already arrived in Harare is Professor Singham from Sri Lanka. Our reporter had an interview with him. Professor Singham stressed that the outstanding feature of the Nonaligned Movement member countries is their insistence on the promotion and preservation of international peace. The Nonaligned Movement supports the principle of equitable relations among the nations of the world. Professor Singham praised the USSR's proposals to defuse international tensions, thereby saving mankind from the danger of a nuclear holocaust. These proposals accord with the desires and intentions of the peoples of Nonaligned Movement countries.

KISELEV DELEGATION ARRIVAL IN GHANA REPORTED

PM251356 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Aug 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "CPSU Delegation Arrival"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by G.N. Kiselev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, has arrived here at the invitation of the Provisional National Defense Council. The delegation will be learning about the activity of the Ghanaian revolutionary defense committees.

REPORT DISCUSSES SALVADORAN TALKS IN MEXICO CITY

LD241448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Telephone interview with Central American correspondent Bronislav Myakota by announcer Petr Fedorov -- live]

[Text] [Fedorov] Preliminary talks have been held in Mexico City between representatives of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front on one hand and representatives of the Salvadoran Government on the other. It must be said that they have been held under conditions of the strictest secrecy. However, it has emerged in the press that the main purpose of the talks was achieved. The talks were held to prepare for a third meeting between leaders of the patriotic forces and the Government of El Salvador. As was insisted by the patriots, the dialogue between the opposing sides will be conducted in El Salvador and in public, in the presence of representatives of the country's public.

Bronislav Myakota, our correspondent in Central America, is now on the line to the studio. I will ask him a question:

Two years, or more precisely 20 months, have elapsed since the previous meeting between the rebels and the government, and all this time the ruling circles have refused to continue the dialogue with the patriots. How is one to explain this change in approach to the issue?

[Myakota] The fact that the pro-U.S. Duarte regime has embarked on talks with the rebels shows that its attempts to rout the patriots on the battlefield have failed. Despite Washington's all-encompassing aid to the Duarte regime, the latter has been unable to wipe out the rebel forces. On the contrary, experience shows that at present the rebels control extensive parts of the country. From isolated political and military actions they have gone over to staging large-scale military operations and are inflicting one defeat after another on government forces.

[Fedorov] Evidently Duarte is also having to take into account the pressure on the government from broad sections of the Salvadoran public, which is demanding a halt to the civil war.

[Myakota] Yes, you are right. This is true. The civil war in El Salvador has already been going on for 6 years. It has taken 60,000 lives and has affected virtually every family. Out of 5 million inhabitants, 500,000, Salvadorans -- that is 1 out of 10 -- have left the country to seek refuge abroad. A further 500,000 have become refugees in their own country as a result of bombing raids by government aircraft. In addition, the war has done enormous damage to the economy. In El Salvador a whole generation has grown up in war conditions. The people are tired and want to live in peace. The ruling circles are having to take this into account.

[Fedorov] But I do not think we should be too optimistic. Peace in El Salvador seems very distant. That country's extreme right-wing forces are opposed to talks. Finally, it should be remembered that 2 years ago Duarte unilaterally broke off talks with the patriots on White House directions.

For Washington the civil war in El Salvador, as an integral part of the crisis in Central America, is a convenient argument for justifying its military presence in the region. This factor also needs to be taken into account in assessing the prospects for the dialogue that has begun.

BOLIVIA 'VICTIM' OF INTERVENTIONIST POLICY

LD221313 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] La Paz August 22 TASS -- A 48-hour general strike has begun in Bolivia in protest against the continuing illegal presence of American troops in the territory of the country.

Mammoth manifestations and meetings are being held in all departments at the call of the Bolivian Workers' Centre, the biggest trade union federation. The participants in meetings and demonstrations demand immediate withdrawal of the Pentagon's units and an end to U.S. insolent interference into internal affairs of the independent state. Factories and plants, mines, closed in an orderly way, the strike paralyzed the work of the transport, banks and institutions, the communication systems.

About 200 American troops are known to have arrived here on July 17, this year, from U.S. military bases in Panama in violation of Bolivia's constitution without the permission of the Congress of the Republic and contrary to the people's will. They came to Bolivia allegedly to take steps against drug production and trafficking. A mighty movement in defence of the national sovereignty of the Bolivian people has been gaining momentum in the country since that time. The unprecedented fact of official Washington's gross encroachment upon freedom and independence of the Republic was firmly denounced by the leadership of the Congress, all opposition parties, trade unions, various public organizations of Bolivia, and also prominent statesmen and politicians of Mexico, Peru, and other Latin American countries. Even in the United States itself the key mass media unanimously admitted that Bolivia had fallen another victim to interventionist and aggressive policy of the Reagan administration which claims world domination.

As is clear from statements of parties and trade unions, circulated here, under the pretext of anti-drug measures the Pentagon is nurturing plans of establishing a new springboard for further military penetration in the region. It seeks to have a new base for conducting espionage and subversive actions against South American states.

ORTEGA CONDEMNATION OF U.S. AGGRESSION CITED

LD251231 Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Managua August 25 TASS -- the Sandinista revolution is in serious danger as a result of the U.S. Administration's aggressive policies with regard to Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega declared here before his departure on a tour of several European, Asian and African countries.

Ortega trenchantly denounced Washington's machinations against the sovereign Republic and the White House's intention to enhance aid to the counter-revolutionaries.

The U.S., the president said. launched a campaign of blackmail and pressure on Latin American countries with a view to hampering the possible holding of the 1989 non-aligned summit in Managua.

Nicaraguan Defence Ministry officials, in an interview with NUEVA NICARAGUA news agency, said that Costa Rica-based Somozista forces were preparing fresh terrorists acts against Nicaragua.

PAPER DESCRIBES CHERNOBYL AS 'SARCOPHAGUS'

AU251425 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 21 Aug 86 p 4

[Report by A. Sokol, PRAVDA UKRAINY correspondent in Pripyat, Kiev Oblast: "People and the Reactor: Chernobyl at the Present Time"]

[Text] We sat down in a light Gorkiy-made automobile bearing the mark "Emergency" and a permit on the windscreen, and went to block No 4 -- to the protective wall which is being built there to shut off the damaged reactor, to separate it from the others.

Even quite recently, the destroyed reactor radiated a threat to people. But now there are workplaces there for many people. The volcano has been subdued, although still not definitely extinguished, still perfidious. A dosimeter reminds us of this.

"In the subunit of radiation controllers," L.F. Belovodskiy, candidate of technical sciences and subunit leader, told us, "there are the country's best specialists. We have the best instruments and equipment. A permanent control system is in operation. Automatic recorders are charting the situation around the clock...

"Having defined the sources of radiation, the subunit and other services resolve how to cover them up, and work out a schedule for each kind of works."

R.N. Kanyuk, deputy chief of the contruction of the "sarcophagus," told us on the way what the biological defense under construction represented.

A concrete wall encircles the entire affected block -- the wrecked reactor and the premises related to its servicing. The builders are in a hurry, are advancing along the entire line. Chernobyl has mustered specialists from a number of atomic power stations and from many cities in the country. People have been provided with the most up-to-date equipment. Machines and equipment are frequently outsize. A mountain on the move. A cumbersome column also happened to be in our way. We had to stop. Using the opportunity, R.N. Kanyuk drew up sketches to illustrate his story about the works in progress. Roman Nesterovich invariably emphasized: Solicitude for people comes first. The point is to accomplish the largest part of the task possible beyond the bounds of the block, where the level of radiation is lower. The reinforced concrete blocks, from which the defense walls are being built, are being prefabricated on the outskirts of Chernobyl.

We visited these premises at the site of the former rayon Selkhoztekhnika association. The electrowelders are transforming the "cubes" -- special metal construction parts -- that have been delivered there into "dishes" for concrete. The blocks are transported directly from the stocks to the enlargement [doukrupneniye] zone for final assembly. And it was there that we went next. On our way, we stopped over at the site where concrete is being made. It is worth expanding on this subject.

Concrete carriers have been streaming to the AES since the time the accident occurred. Incomparably more concrete is now needed. It is being swallowed by the insatiable belly of the defense wall which is 8 meters wide [shirinoy vosem metrov]. [paragraph continues]

It is also being used to pave the area from which the contaminated soil is being removed and replaced with a new one. This is why several concrete plants have been built in the area of the station. They were built within one single month! Containers and equipment have been readied for another plant....

Concrete is streaming continuously, around the clock. At the footsteps of the AES, at a site where concrete is being received, we met the driver of an unloading concrete carrier, and a builder.

"The shift here lasts 3 hours," the specialist said.

This means that the shift is complicated. Also the miners laying the "pillow" for the "sarcophagus" were working that long. I remembered the night meeting with them at the AES. Sleepy silence at the medical center was suddenly broken by a group of people entering. They greedily drank water and immediately disappeared.

"Are you miners?" I asked

"Yes, we are."

"Where from?"

"From the Donbass."

I did not dare to continue the conversation; they were too tired. Also their other shifts were not easy. However, they met the target ahead of schedule and passed the relay baton to the others.

At the sites where concrete is being laid, there are few people: concrete is being pumped. In this sector, there are working masters in their trade: V.S. Genrikh, sector chief; V.M. Makarenkov, chief engineer; V.I. Zavednyy, brigade leader; N.R. Korolyuk, team leader; and others.

And here there was the biological defense under construction. How much human effort is it absorbing! The perimeter of this construction was determined by the outlines of the edifices which are to be preserved. Recently, the Ukrainian television showed the joining of the fourth and the fifth walls, the making of a "network" ["plet"] from railroad platforms. All works in this sector are being carried out by a collective headed by A.F. Chemeris.

The protecting wall separating block No 4 from No 3 and the others crosses several premises. We inspected it in the machine hall -- at its longest section. A travelling crane was transporting, under the very ceiling, enlarged reinforced concrete blocks and forming a barrier out of them. There seemed to be nothing unusual abut that. But the equipment all around was wrapped up in a plastic film against pollution. There was the smell of a disinfectant solution. The cabin of the crane operator, Aleksandr Furkalo was "faced" with lead and had special windows, guaranteeing a safe shift.

I automatically put the palm of my hand on the wall under construction and felt it was ice cold. While holding up the respirator, I had one more look toward the gaping breach in the roof. This was a footprint of the accident. The companions were in a hurry. Farther away people were forgetting about radiation, because its level was lower. But at this site we had to keep it in mind.

"A crane has been assembled for operations in immediate proximity to the reactor," R.N. Kanyuk continued his story. "An approach has already been prepared for it..."

Work schedules are confirmed in the branch headquarters, at the level of deputy ministers. They were checked at the end of each day. Many positions on the schedule were ticked, meaning that these operations were completed.

On our way from the AES, we passed through Kopachi village. Not so long ago, people were changing there from motor buses to armored troop transporters or the other way round. The trips now go direct. The only thing that reminds one of the past danger was the plot of land made smooth by wheels. Concrete carriers are now running from plant to to facilities, but to a special platform to pass the cargo to vehicles doing "the dirty job." (By the way, on the way from the AES the latter pass through a compulsory decontamination area). An impervious barrier against radioactive dirt has been erected. The hands of people who enter are checked in the dining room. Remembering that I had touched the wall, I had a careful look to see what the screen would show. My hands were clean!

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT OF BIBIN REPORTED

LD260017 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Leonid Alekseyevich Bibin, the first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Construction, to be USSR minister. [Sentence as heard; Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 25 August broadcasts an exact repeat of this report.]

ZIMYANIN ADDRESSES SOVIET PEACE COMMISSION

LD221759 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS -- The Commission for Observing the International Year of Peace in the USSR held its meeting in the Kremlin on August 20. It considered the question of holding a peace lesson and functions of the International Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace in the USSR on September 1, 1986.

The session was chaired by Mikhail Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the commission. In his opening address, he said that the activity of Soviet public organizations on observing the International Year of Peace was taking place at a signal, extremely important period of history. The current year, the year of the 27th CPSU Congress, as filled with political and labour enthusiasm of the Soviet people in implementing the strategic programme of accelerating the country's social and economic development. The constructive work by the people was inseparably linked with the vigorous struggle for stronger peace, for averting the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

The CPSU and the Soviet state, in pursuing consistently a peaceful Leninist policy, advanced a number of major foreign policy initiatives this year, directed at ending the arms race on earth and preventing the militarization of outer space.

Of historic significance were the Soviet Union's proposals for eliminating all nuclear weapons around the world by the year 2000, advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his January 15, 1986, statement.

Gorbachev's August 18 announcement of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government to extend the unilateral nuclear test moratorium until January 1, 1986 confirmed again the party's and people's adherence to the cause of peace, and understanding of their lofty responsibility for the fate of human civilization. The statement found itself in the focus of attention all over the world. It was enthusiastically welcomed by the Soviet people, by all people of goodwill, political and public forces and broad sections of the world anti-war movement.

It was noted at the meeting that two large-scale actions -- the peace lesson held at all general education schools in the USSR and participation by Soviet working people in the International Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace -- are linked not only by the common date, September 1. They were described as active forms of mass participation of Soviet people in the campaign for peace, for averting the threat of nuclear war.

Thorough preparations for and holding of these actions would become a new contribution to implementing the programme of the International Year of Peace, which acquired a special meaning thanks to the advancement of large-scale peace initiatives by the Soviet Union.

The commission heard reports by Sergey Shcherbakov, Soviet education minister, Georgiy Zhukov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, and Viktor Mironenko, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, on preparations for the peace lesson, and a report by Aleksandr Subbotin, secretary of the All-Union Central Trade Union Council, on Soviet workers' participation in functions of the International Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace.

Roza Bazarova, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of Soviet Turkmenia, Vladimir Vinogradov, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, and Nikolay Neyland, deputy foreign minister of Soviet Latvia, took part in the debate on these issues.

The commission adopted a decision to recommend that the peace lesson at the country's educational establishments and functions of the International Day of Trade Union Actions for Peace, devoted to the International Year of Peace, focus attention on provisions contained in Gorbachev's August 18 statement. Taking into account the positive experience and considerable educational effect of the peace lesson and the international response it caused, the commission recommended that similar peace lessons be held at vocational, specialized secondary and higher educational establishments of the country.

In conclusion, Zimyanin said that the reports, heard at the commission's meeting, about new steps and initiatives advanced by the Soviet people in favour of peace inspired the confidence that all functions in the country and abroad, devoted to the International Year of Peace, all efforts by the peace-loving public would become an important integral part of the peoples' struggle for curbing the arms race, averting the threat of nuclear war, non-militarizing outer space, reviving detente and strengthening peace foundations and goodneighbour attitudes in present-day international relations.

PRAVDA TEXT OF POLITICAL EDUCATION RESOLUTION

PM260810 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 86 First Edition p 1

[Unatrributed report: At the CPSU Central Committee]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the question "On the Organization of Working People's Political and Economic Education in the 1986/1987 Academic Year."

The resolution adopted notes that to switch society to new tasks and to include the creative potential of the people and each labor collective in the resolution of those tasks are prime conditions for accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and improving all aspects of social life. Political and economic studies have a considerable role to play in implementing this strategic directive of the 27th CPSU Congress.

The tasks posed by the 27th party congress have evoked in communists and broad sections of the people growing interest in current questions of the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy and in the forms and methods of their practical implementation. In the new academic year the main task is to study in depth the party congress decisions, which are a major achievement in modern Marxist-Leninist thought. Serious attention should be devoted to the congress' new generalizations and conclusions relating to the features of the country's domestic development and the situation prevailing in the world arena in the nuclear age.

The assimilation of the congress' fundamental ideas should help Soviet people to master Marxism-Leninism as a creative, developing teaching and a true guide to action and actively promote increasingly broad participation by working people in running the affairs of the state and society and in the democratic processes under way in the country and the enhancement of their ability to engage in rational economic management and to work efficiently and with total commitment.

It is important to organize studies so that they are interesting and meaningful and take fully into account the nature of students' labor and social activity and the level of their education and social experience. The assimilation of the innovative approaches worked out by the party should take place in a businesslike and creative atmosphere on the basis of an interested exchange of opinions on all current questions of life and in an indissoluble relationship with the practical tasks being solved by labor collectives and by society as a whole. It is necessary to vigorously rid ourselves of formalism, scholasticism, and abstraction, which undermine students' interest in studies and reduce their effectiveness.

The CPSU Central Committee has instructed union republic communist party central committee, party kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, and primary party organizations to ensure timely preparations for the 1986/87 academic year and to carry it out at a high organizational, ideological, and theoretical level.

All forms of studies must be subordinated to study of the problems of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development. The course "Acceleration of the Country's Socioeconomic Development is the CPSU's Strategic Line" should be considered the main teaching course for the political education system. It should reflect the main factors on which the resolution of the tasks posed by the 27th Congress depends: the improvement of the economic management mechanism and the running of the economy, the progress, the development in every possible way of labor initiative, the assertion of social justice, and raising to a new level social justice and the people's self-management. Current questions of the Soviet society's development must be viewed in close conjunction with the new tasks and potential for comprehensive Soviet cooperation with the socialist countries and the use of the fraternal parties' experience, and in conjunction with the problems of the present-day situation in the world and the course of and prospects for the struggle between the forces of progress and reaction.

A separate study course -- "Production Intensification" -- must be organized in the economic education system, taking into account the specifics of various sectors of the national economy.

It is recommended that the first class be on the topic "The 12th 5-Year Plan Is the 5-Year Plan of a Fundamental Breakthrough in the Country's Socioeconomic Development." It was deemed expedient to grant party organizations the right to chose their form of study in 1986/87 on the basis of collectives' distinctive features and the nature of the students' production and social activity.

Party organizations and propagandists are called upon to closely link studies with the practical resolution of the tasks posed by the 27th Congress and the CPSU Central Committee June (1986) Plenum, to fulfillment of annual plans and pledges, and the struggle to improve labor productivity and output quality and to introduce new economic management methods. Studies should be accompanied by the development and implementation of specific proposals from students on the efficient utilization of fixed production capital, saving raw material, fuel, and energy resources, improving labor and production organization, and restructuring the work of collectives, teams, sections, shops and livestock units on a financially autonomous basis, and by changes in people's mentality and behavior and their attitude toward their jobs.

Party committees were instructed to actively involve the leaders of party, soviet, and economic organs and trade union and komsomol committees in propagandizing the 27th congress' decisions along side highly trained propagadists and lecturers, scientists, and representatives of the artistic intelligentisa capable of interesting students through their in-depth analysis of the questions that are being studied and who constantly seek more effective ways and means of closely linking theory and life.

Seminars and briefings must be held with propagandists and the organizers of study courses. They must be given the requisite grounding in the most important questions currently being resolved by the party and state stemming from the 27th CPSU Congress directives, and they must be armed with methodological reference and statistical materials. Lecturers and propagandists should be helped to acquire high vocational skills and the art of public speaking.

The CPSU Central Committee Propaganda and Economics Sections and the CPSU Central Committee All-Union Political Enlightenment Center were instructed to prepare and publish study plans, programs, methodological materials, textbooks, educational supplies, and visual aids.

Ministries, departments, and economic and trade union organs were instructed to rapidly make the necessary additions to standard programs to reflect the specific nature of relevant sectors and spheres of production, front-ranking experience, and the specific tasks of collectives' work at a time of restructuring.

The Political Literature Publishing House has been instructed to publish the anthologies "V.I. Lenin on Socialist Building" and "The Acceleration of the Country's Socioeconomic Development Is a Task for the Entire Party and People" and the textbook "Strategy of Acceleration" (Strategiya uskoreniya). The Agroindustrial Publishing House, the Trade Union Publishing House, and the Economics Publishing House have been instructed to publish textbooks for the economic education system.

It is planned to systematically publish in the journals KOMMUNIST, PARTIYNAYA ZHIAN, POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE, and AGITATOR, scientific, production, and mass journals, and central party newspapers articles of a theoretical and methodological nature on study courses.

The CPSU Central Committee Propaganda and Economic Sections, union republic communist party central committee, party kraykoms, obkoms, okruzhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, and rimary party orgainzations have been instructed in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress to prepare proposals by 1 December 1986 for further restrutcuring the system of political and economic studies and to extensively discuss these proposals in the first quarter of 1987 in party organizations and the press. Attention must be focused on working out the most effective teaching forms and methods which accord with the spirit of the time, The Soviet people's interests and needs, and the generalization of all the valuable contributions that have been amassed in the sphere of Marxist-Leninist teaching since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum.

It was deemed necessary to use the forthcoming academic year to hold experiments and proving tests on the modern approaches to the organization of studies, to determine long-term structural changes in the system of working people's political and economic education and training, and to study the fraternal parties' experience.

PRAVDA CHIDES THOSE SLOW TO IMPLEMENT RESTRUCTURING

PM221325 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Restructuring Concerns Everyone"]

[Text] The Soviet people's daily life is filled with creative labor. The energy of schemes is transformed into the energy of practical actions. We have succeeded in lending greater dynamism to economic processes and increasing production and labor to productivity growth rates. Social tasks are being resolved better. More housing was commissioned during the half-year, and the commissioning of sociocultural and consumer projects increased.

True, it is too early to be seduced by what has been achieved. The rhythm of life defined by the 27th CPSU Congress does not allow us to work the same way today as we worked yesterday. And this also applies to the great tasks facing every collective. The foremost, greatest things are still ahead. They cannot be implemented without the urgent restructuring of all our work. And it is necessary to do this work on the march, actively resolving complex economic and political tasks and striving for fundamental changes.

Restructuring is a capacious word. It concerns each and everyone and embraces not only the economy but also all other aspects of social life: social relations, the political system, the spiritual and ideological sphere, and the work style and methods of party committees, primary party organizations, and all our cadres. Restructuring is essentially a real revolution. It is a turning point in people's minds and hearts, in their psychology, and in their understanding of the contemporary period. It is necessary to boldly make abrupt turns and not fear decisive transformations.

The editors' mail contains many letters asking one and the same question: "How is restructuring to be carried out? What specifically should be done?" M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, gave the answer to these questions at the aktiv conference in Khabarovsk. We must not wait for someone to start working in the new way, but act. And start with ourselves. By defining our civic stance and galvanizing political and labor activity. By stepping up responsibility for the assigned task and for the end results. Everyone must shake off the "layer of barnacles," clean himself up, as it were, and set the task of doing everything conscientiously and with greater responsibility to himself and the people. The time has also come to call people to account for implementing what is planned. To call to account most strictly, without indulgences.

No one must remain on the sidelines of the acceleration process. Restructuring must proceed simultaneously from above and from below. It must embrace all echelons of management and all levels of political and state leadership and link up with restructuring in production collectives. We have to remove layer by layer the problems in all spheres of social life, rid ourselves of what is obsolete, and solve questions creatively and boldly. The worker and minister, the party worker, and the scientist must step on the gas.

Restructuring presupposes the creation of an atmosphere in society which will prompt people to overcome inertia and indifference and rid themselves at work and in life of everything that does not correspond to the principles of socialism or to our understanding of the world and our way of life. Unfortunately, there are still many people who pay lip service to work in the new way but actually do things in the old way. Others speak the word "restructuring" with difficulty and see the process of renewal almost as a shaking of foundations. The real meaning of restructuring must be better explained, and those who prefer to proceed at minimum speed and who, out of inertia, just roll along must be replaced by more energetic people. It is the party committees' task to ensure real participation everywhere both in solving questions in production and in resolving social problems.

The key task is the economy. Putting it onto a new footing and accelerating it will have tremendous political, social, and other consequences. Still more attention should be devoted to improving the economic machinery and to scientific and technical progress, and its qualitative aspect must be ensured. [paragraph continues]

Party organizations must earnestly correct those who are thick-skulled and who cling to obsolete technology. The party congress posed the problem of quality as a nationwide task. Production activity has to be improved by means of comprehensively thought-out organizational and technical decisions, by strengthening discipline, and by instilling order everywhere. People's daily life influences labor productivity and the public mood. Where this is forgotten and given a back seat, there is no return. Leaders must be called very strictly to account for the social sphere.

Acceleration depends to a decisive degree on how party organizations act. They must generate new ideas, formulate new approaches, and develop competition for the unconditional implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. It is the duty of party organizations to investigate in every sector and every collective what specifically must be done to advance the matter. This is necessary because in many places everything remains as before. Initiative comes up against a wall of indifference or even open opposition.

Much depends on cadres, on their ability to work under conditions of the broadening of democracy and the development of the initiative of the masses. Success attends those leaders who go to the people, inform them about the decisions adopted, report on what has been done, consult, and think together about how to act in a particular case. Collective wisdom is the key to resolving the most complex tasks.

The soviets must develop their mighty potential. It is an open secret that many party committees excessively watch over them and take their place. There is also insufficient respect for the local organs of power on the part of certain economic planners. They sometimes brush aside the soviets' demands to develop city transport, to tackle the provision of public services and amenities, and to construct housing and sociocultural and consumer projects. The recently adopted CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Council of Ministers resolution enhances the role and responsibility of the soviets and extends their rights. We must see it that the resolution is consistently implemented.

There will be no restructuring unless an atmosphere of intolerance toward shortcomings, ostention, empty talk, paper shuffling, and red tape is asserted in party organizations and labor collectives. But principled, creative criticism, precisely addressed which gets to the roots of shortcomings and omissions and reveals the ways to eliminate them, is needed. Criticism which supports the spirit of concern and healthy dissatisfaction with what has been achieved is needed.

V.I. Lenin figuratively called publicity a sword which heals wounds. It must become the norm of our life and a constant, continuous process. A great role in this is allocated to the mass information and propaganda media. However, the local press is still keeping to the beaten track. But newspapers are the face of party committees and mirror the work style and methods and the standard of leadership. The party committee is restructured, the press is restructured.

Great work is being developed everywhere. Restructuring is a matter for the whole people. It concerns everyone and must proceed in everything.

CHIEF OF REORGANIZED CUSTOMS SERVICE INTERVIEWED

PM251529 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 86 Morning Edition p 6

[Conversation with V.N. Bazovskiy, chief of the USSR Council of Ministers Main Administration of State Customs Control, conducted by V. Shmyganovskiy under the "Details for IZVESTIYA" rubric: "At the Customs" -- first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The service became independent this year -- it is no longer a subordinate department and is accountable for its actions only to the government of the country.

Why was it felt necessary to accord our customs service such high status?

How are its duties and rights expanding in this regard? And how, finally, are the shortcomings in its work which have emerged in recent years being overcome?

These were just a few of the questions we wanted to ask in the first press conversation given by V.N. Bazovskiy, chief of the USSR Council of Ministers Main Administration of State Customs Control, war veteran, party worker, and diplomat, who worked for many years as USSR ambassador to Bulgaria and Hungary and within the CPSU Central Commitee apparatus.

The building near the capital's Leningrad Station, where the old Russian service was housed, now has working within its walls quite a few new people who are energetic and well educated. But the veterans with many years of experience behind them remain nevertheless the main administration's buttress, its brain center, as Vladimir Nikolayevich Bazovskiy told me. Deputy Chief Fedor Nikolayevich Gorin has worked in the system for 40 years, as long, that is, as Sheremetyevo customs leader Vasiliy Nikitich Naumov. The reliance on veterans is more than justified, since for the time being there is nowhere for customs officers to be trained: There is only the hope that a special technical college-type school may be set up. At present selection is carried out, as a rule, on the basis of recommendation by party and Komsomol bodies, the direction of military commissariats, and young people's wishes.

Then follows 18 months' instruction under the guidance of an instructor, examinations, and certification that the person is capable of working independently. Graduates of law VUZes and the Moscow State International Relations Institute have also been joining recently.

Those who have joined "for the romance of it" drop out quite quickly: Cadre turnover at Sheremetyevo customs has reached 20 percent.

The imagined adventures turn into fatiguing duty roster, low wages, and an almost complete absence of social benefits -- accomodation, travel and recreational passes... Some inspectors, it should be said, have well and truly stained the honor of their uniform and allowed themselves to become involved in various kinds of shady dealings. V. Zubkov, former chief of the Nakhodka customs, for example, was arrested recently.

At the same time other officials involved, say, in making deals abroad began treating the customs house as if they were their own home. Many "esteemed" personnages avoided baggage control and customs. [paragraph continues]

If it were not for the administration's new status V. Sushkov, former USSR deputy foreign trade minister, who was arrested recently, would clearly have continued to travel between Moscow and the capitals of other states for many years more, in breach of all the rules. It should be remembered that the customs previously came under and was an administration of the Foreign Trade Ministry. And certain workers in that department who carried out "self-checking" when crossing the border were engaged in brazen smuggling.

Of course, customs officers also carried out no small number of brilliant operations in the years prior to the reorganization. As a result of one of them the state received assets worth $1,865,000 -- which is an all-time record, not just one for Sheremetyevo Airport, the country's largest customs station. Honest, resolute, and experienced inspectors have carried out their work regardless of individuals' rank or esteem. V. Rumyantsev, a customs official there, received an award precisely for exposing one of the "untouchables," who was subsequently sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment.

"Indeed our service is now reverting to its initial status, as defined by the decree signed by V.I. Lenin back on 29 March 1918," Vladimir Nikolayevich said. "The decree stresses that customs establishments are organs of central Soviet authority and that no civil or military authority has the right to interfere in their instructions. Then, with the nationalization of foreign trade the customs administration was placed under the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade. Now the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and the State Committee for Foreign Tourism all have 'access' to foreign countries... All this has required new efforts and increased responsibility on our part not only in economic matters but in the political safeguarding of the borders. There has, for example, been a marked increase in the flow of anti-Soviet literature connected with the worsening international situation.

"In other words, the customs service is charged with the execution of tasks of national rather than merely departmental significance."

"Vladimir Nikolayevich, how specifically has the nature of smuggling changed in recent years and what has promoted this? For example, when did references to drugs first begin to appear frequently in inspectors' reports?"

"The first drug couriers from Asia's 'Golden Triangle' appeared at Sheremetyevo in 1976, when Western airlines began transit flights via Moscow. Although those criminals did not seem to directly threaten our country, their going unpunished could have cost dear. Drug addiction is, as is well known, a misfortune which has quite evidently affected us too. Although it is true that there have been very few attempts made by Soviet citizens to bring in or take out drugs, and in the main this smuggliing bears a foreign label.

"In the eighties the illegal export of historical, scientific, artistic, and other cultural assets has increased. Some of them were part of our national heritage. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the 'literature' I referred to and thousands of firearms and other weapons are detained at the border." We spoke about the fact that smuggling things from abroad has in a number of cases long ceased to be the business of individuals alone. [paragraph continues]

All manner of hiding places with sophisticated electronic locks are now produced under factory conditions on the order of various special services. Smugglers use every available channel for penetration, including, of course, diplomatic ones.

During one of my conversations with Vladimir Nikolayev Bazovskiy there was a fresh report on the detention of baggage belonging to first secretary "X" of the embassy of an Arab country. I say a fresh report, because 22,000 (!) women's scarves intended for sale in our country had quite recently been confiscated from this diplomat. This time the (23 pieces) of Mr X's baggage had already been loaded onto a foreign airliner. What was to be done?

"Unload it!" was Naumov's curt order, since some antiques had already been discovered in his hand luggage. All the suitcases and boxes were returned to the customs control hall, with the result that a further 39 icons were discovered.

"But surely there are breaches of diplomatic immunity here: After all, the smuggler in our case is a high-ranking official?"

"Breach of diplomatic immunity was excluded," V.N. Bazovskiy replied. "The right to examine the baggage of diplomats suspected of illegal operations -- involving currency, art objects, and drugs -- is provided for under the Geneva Convention."

"So why do these oversights, so to speak, occur?"

"People like to write things like 'border under lock and key,' 'barrier against contraband,' and so forth. All this is backed up by people -- the border guards, with whom we work in close contact, and customs inspectors. They include those who are professionally talented and those who are not very skilled. Sometimes we are understaffed, in both categories, because of vacation, sickness, or staff turnover. Morning flights into Sheremetyevo-2 begin at 5 o'clock, people are tired, overworked, their vigilance lapses sometimes.

"The staffs of customs establishments," V.N. Bazovskiy continued, "are supposed to increase as control zones or regions are set up within the country -- at international construction sites and major enterprises producing exports and constantly receiving imports. At the moment, of course, these are just plans..."

"Much, of course, also depends on labor organization. At virtually all international airports, for example, foreigners and nationals are checked separately, but here for some reason we have a single 'system'..."

"This question will be examined, of course. We shall be doing away with routine and unjustifiable delay in work both with Soviet and foreign citizens," V.N. Bazovskiy said. "Control will be democratized as much as possible and there will be a streamlining of the formalities which often delay the passage of freight and people across the USSR border. We shall try to abolish all customs posts which do not have, so to speak, a worthwhile workload but which have been bequeathed to us from the distant past. In other words, in addition to stepping up customs controls, which should be the spearhead of our struggle against smugglers and lovers of easy profit, we are also taking measures to improve the leadership of this most important work in the spirit of present-day requirements."

"I have heard foreigners say that our border guards and customs officials are very grim and forbidding..."

"Indeed, even our most experienced and skilled workers sometimes forget that they are in effect the first Soviet people many of our foreign guests see. And although fulfilling their duty honorably, they pay too little attention to their standard of behavior or outward appearance.

"Often this 'background of surliness' is aggravated by a person's general lack of education -- both in the family and at school. And, I repeat, we have quite a few casual people who must be removed. I should like to say quite definitely: We certainly do not regard each visitor from another country as a smuggler or ideological saboteur. The overwhelming majority of people respect our laws and rightly expect to be treated with good will.

"Now, for the convenience of foreign citizens, transit points are also being set up in the heart of Soviet territory (they have been opened in Kazan and Rostov-na-Donu, for example).

"It is no secret that foreigners caught red-handed at the customs post are in no particular danger: Prohibited items in their possession are simply confiscated, or in a number of cases those people are forbidden entry into the USSR. This does not apply to drug traffickers or embezzlers of national cultural assets, of course: They may be put on trial.:

"Often incidents result from ignorance of the law on the part of some of our fellow countrymen, although that, of course, does not exonerate them. In this connection I should like to ask: Which elementary violations of the customs regulations would you like to draw to the attention of Soviet people on their return from trips abroad?"

"You are absolutely correct regarding the ignorance of many requirements of the customs regulations. What can I say here? There would be no exasperating violations of the law or ruined lives if each citizen crossing the border met the simplest requirement -- to make a true declaration, either in writing or verbally, to the customs official about the items in their possession or belonging to other people.

"People must tell the truth even in those cases when the aforementioned items are concealed for various reasons in suitcases, bags, or clothing. In such instances the citizen's actions do not constitute smuggling under the law. Only the failure to mention listed items or valuables, regardless of their location or the reasons for the actions of a passenger, for example, is a serious violation and is dealt with accordingly.

"There is a second, no less important requirement. In addition to items listed in declarations the law requires printed items, manuscripts, movie, photographic, and video recordings, and materials of an educational nature to be declared. To use our official jargon, the very fact of failing to declare items for examination is considered smuggling. We shall strive to inform ministries, departments, and Soviet and foreign citizens more fully about our regulations. Because the information made available at the customs post or during the checking process is too late..."

Fedor Nikolayevich Gorin and I have been looking at the latest operational documents. I was interested by a report from A. Kozlov, chief of the Leningrad customs and customs service adviser, third class.

Here is the result of an examination of six containers sent from Rotterdam to the All-Union Soyuzkhimeksport Association. This cargo consisted of French perfume in spray form. But surplus goods were found -- 18 cases of perfume more than listed in the documents. Who at the association was meant to receive these fragrant bribes worth, incidentally, R10,000? This has still not been established.

The British ship (B. Ospri) regularly brings consignments of "Western"-brand jeans from the port of Tilbury (England) to the All-union Raznoeksport Association. A written request to Raznkoeskport to confirm the ownership of the "Western" jeans has still not been answered.

...Thus, smuggling has begun using the most sophisticated transport system -- containerized freight. This has meant that the rights of the customs had to be extended to enable the containers to be examined.

"I would not like to give optimistic assurances that everything in our service will change for the better immediately," V.N. Bazoskiy said in conclusion. "We have only just begun to restructure.

"And although individual innovations remain an official secret, we are also sure that openness and increased information to the population about the practical work of the customs will benefit it. Our administration's goals remain the same: to save or rather protect our state wealth and to combat corruption and disrespect for the law, regardless of rank, title, or past merits.

"The customs service now has greater rights in that struggle."

AFP: MAN EXECUTED ON DRUNKEN MURDER CHARGE

AU251240 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Moscow, Aug 25 (AFP) -- A man sentenced to death for a murder when he was drunk has been executed at Tallinn, according to the daily newspaper SOVIETSKAYA ESTONIA which arrived here Monday. He was named as S. Kinulnikov, who was given the death sentence on October 10, 1985. His appeal was rejected, the newspaper said. Several executions and death sentences have been reported in the Soviet Union in the past few weeks, particularly over drink-related crimes. Death sentences here are carried out by firing squad.

PRAVDA CHIEF EDITOR AFANASYEV ON SOVIET ECONOMY

LD242154 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Talk by Academician Viktor Grigoryevich Afanasyev, editor in chief of PRAVDA, responding to viewers' letters on the state of the economy]

[Excerpts] [video shows Afanasyev in study, facing camera] Hello comrade viewers! We continue our discussion on our economic system. We have been talking about its merits, we said that the first positive shifts have been noticed in the development of our economy -- which is very, very gratifying. But our readers are turning their attention to the imperfection -- all the same -- in our economic system. This is indeed so; we cannot think of our economic system as fully meeting the demands of the times.

Here, Aleksandr Ivanovich Shcherbakov of Moscow writes: "You cannot look without bitterness at our losses, which stem from the imperfection in the economic system." Where does the imperfection lie? Comrade Shcherbakov tries to answer this question himself. This is what he writes: "More than one article in the PRAVDA Newspaper has been devoted to the destructiveness of the expenditure system of economic indicators which we have. Planning according to the notorious concept of gross value is leading to an imprudent use of the resources in the country, disinterest on the part of enterprises in the efficient use of existing productive assets and of the results of scientific and technical achievements."

Another of our readers, Vladimir Filipovich Ivanov of Tula writes: "How much can be said about overcoming the expenditure tendency [zatratnost]? Why expenditures? How long will this expenditure tendency last?" Yes, indeed, one of the main shortcomings -- a serious, very, very, serious shortcoming is in fact the expenditure tendency in our economic system. What does this expenditure tendency mean? It means that the more expensive the material or the raw material or the energy or the transportation, the better it is; the more rubles are earned by an enterprise or association -- I am not yet concerned with the question as to how the rubles are earned -- the better; the more resources the builders absorb, the better, although the quality of work done by the builders is far from always high -- there is a massive amount of incomplete construction and other negative phenomena.

From what does the tendency to spend spring? The expenditure tendency springs from the fact that the main planning and accounting figure in the work of an enterprise or association is the volume of gross sales in rubles. The essence of the expenditure tendency was expressed precisely and significantly by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the June Plenum of the Central Committee of our party this year. He said he especially wanted to single out the problem -- without solving it, we can hardly implement successfully the tasks in introducing resource-saving technology and overcoming the trait of expenditure in the economy. The talking point is the notorious gross value figure. The task according to gross figures in various guises is one of the main ones in appraising the activity of an industry, region or enterprise. And while this is so, then for the sake of increasing gross value -- that is, for the sake of increasing the volume of gross sales in rubles -- there is frequent use of expensive materials, and the costlier they are, the better; the weight of machinery is pushed up: the heavier a machine is, the better, the costlier; tons and kilometers are clocked up -- the more tons and kilometers, the higher the plan indicators. Turnover in the national economy becomes inflated: that is, the parts and units which go into making up an item are carted from one shop to another, their cost mounts, one cost is transferred onto another or a third; double accounting appears, and so on and so forth.

We are struggling for efficiency, says Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. But look -- what a truly stupid situation the managers find themselves in! They may have manufactured a cheap item and they get a reprimand for falling short of the output target in rubles; they may have introduced innovations and saved resources but they put the enterprise and therefore the whole industry in an unprofitable position. [passage omitted]

It is important to note -- this is also an alarming, and I would say, sad fact -- that the volume of sales in rubles is the most serious kind of obstacle to scientific and technical progress. It does not stimulate scientific and technical progress. Why? First because new modern machines are, as a rule, lighter and cheaper, more efficient: They require retooling plants, require the managers of collectives to make an about-face, serious alterations and restructuring of production are required. How much simpler life is for the old guard on the old beaten track?

PRAVDA has three times come to the defense of the Volga Tube Mill. This plant has manufactured thin-walled tubes which are no worse than thick-walled tubes in respect to strength. The weight of this thin-walled tube-a length of one meter, say, with a diameter of 1,427mm -- has been reduced by 700 kg. What does this mean? It means that hundreds of millions of rubles and tens of thousands of mertric tons of high-quality high-alloy steel have been saved; or could have been saved. But the paradox once again, insofar as that is the case, since the volume of sales in rubles has sharply decreased at this plant, the plant has reduced exactly by 10 percent this volume of sales on which depend, as I have already stated, its wages, reserves, bonuses, and all the rest of the rewards, and its productivity has fallen by 15 percent, quote "fallen", unquote, because in actual fact, in reality its labor productivity has increased; but our productivity is "calculated". I would say - in quite a dubious way: you take the total volume of sales, it is divided by the number of workers employed -- and there's your labor productivity. And as there are less rubles spent at this plant, then labor productivity has dropped. This plant was one of the front-ranking enterprises, now it's lagging behind -- this is the source of all its trouble.

And what is also sad is that the builders are refusing to take these thin-walled tubes inasmuch as these tubes are cheap and they have no reason for using a cheap material. As you can see, the expenditure mechanism is seriously impeding both the acceleration of the rates of our development and raising the quality of output and the use of the latest achievements of the scientific and technological revolution. What is the matter here?

The matter is the imperfection in these indicators -- of this indicator in particular. The force of habit brings something to bear here; it's far easier to go down the old road then finding new paths. I would say that the lag in the science of economics has something to say, too. Why? Because the general principles have not been worked out, the general principles of this economic mechanism, although they, the basis of these principles were laid down by Marx, they are to be found in the works of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, too -- I would say sometimes people are not attentive enough to our classic works of Marxism-Leninism. Marx even said that a new value, a new consumer value, and new thing, is acquired by additional labor, by labor pure and free from previously materialized labor. But we are carrying over previously materialized labor, raw materials, manufactured components and parts, to a new value, which, on the whole, is not quite right, and to put it more accurately, is very wrong.

Lenin said many times that, first of all, general principles must be elaborated. Those, wrote Lenin, who tackle particular issues without a preliminary solution of the general ones, will inevitably, at every step, without being conscious of it, come up against these general issues.

And to come up against them blindly in every particular instance means dooming one's policy to the worst vacillation and absence of principle. The classics have given us general conceptions, the party has given us this general conception. It is, first of all, the creation of an anti-expenditure, economical economic mechanism, and the task at the moment consists in that this general principle, the principle of creating an economical, highly-effective, and anti-expenditure mechanism is one of the most important of our tasks, and of the tasks of scientists and economic managers. This mechanism, I would say, must be semi-automatic; this mechanism must place economic managers in conditions in which they themselves, without pressure from above or elsewhere or the other side, use the latest equipment and technology, raise labor productivity, improve working organization and conditions. I think that this task is being solved at the moment, and will be solved successfully. Of course, people are needed for this, cadres are needed, the economic training of our specialists must be enhanced in a serious fashion, the role and the significance of the economic services must be raised. In short, we are training good engineers in our technical higher education institutes, they know engineering and technology, but they have a poor grasp of economic issues. They don't know how to count, and now as never before, one needs to know how to count, to know how to count expenditure, to know how to count results, to know how to compare expenditure with results.

To cut gross value and overcome the economy's expenditure trait -- that's the most important thing now. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, at the Central Committee's June Plenum, spoke concerning this: The time has come to cut the gross value knot, otherwise we will not be able to move forward on the path of the expenditure mechanism. By what means? First of all, of course, we obviously have to reject gross value and the volume of gross sales in rubles as the main plan and reporting indicators. Aleksandr Ivanovich Shcherbakov writes: I agree with those who think that determining the economy's rates of development and assessing economic groups on the basis of the level achieved, the level of production in rubles, cannot further a reduction in expenditure and consequently, the acceleration of scientific-technical progress and an increase in the effectiveness of production. We must resolutely reject gross value.

The question arises: But is there an objective indicator that could certify the actual, real contribution by one collective or another to the cause common to the whole nation -- the increase of our national wealth? This indicator exists, this indicator was discovered by Marx and Engels, it is added value, [vnow sozdannaya stoimost], it is net output, output in which previously materialized labor has not been registered, which I have already talked about.

What represents the work of a given collective, the collective of a given association, a given enterprise -- that is what we must proceed from in assessing their work, not in terms of volume of gross sales in rubles, but in terms of the real contribution to increasing national wealth and national income. In this context, understandably, one must exclude the repeated count of the value of past labor, and, evidently, many economists and scientists are inclined toward this, although there are still very many opponents, or proponents of gross value and the volume of gross sales in rubles, and they oppose the elimination of gross value indicators in a very serious fashion. Evidently, national income, the real increase in national wealth by a given collective must be made into a sliding indicator, an indicator for the whole of our national economy, from the ground up, from the enterprise to the ministry, to the national economy as a whole.

It cannot be said that national income is not being taken into account at the moment.

It is being taken into account, but it is being taken into account as a retrospective figure in central statistical administration reports, and only at the level of the national economy as a whole, which, understandably, is insufficient. Another important antiexpenditure indicator, apart from net output, apart from the new labor, so to speak, cleansed from the labor of the past, of the labor of other enterprises' and associations' collectives, is profit. Profit is an important sumarizing indicator of the state and dynamics of production. Well, what is profit? I will remind you it is the price minus the expenditure. But one must treat profit rather carefully. Why is this so? Because there are two ways of obtaining profit, raising profit, or increasing profit. The first is on account of increasing prices, or on account of manufacturing quick-selling, so-called advantageous goods. This does not suit us. It does not suit us, but unfortunately we come up against numerous facts of a purely subjective, purely arbitrary establishment of prices on new production which frequently is so-called new, and here and there is inferior to old and existing production. I will cite you one example. The Vulkan Plant in Leningrad supplies the Aktyubinsk Knitwear Production Association with DL-4M knitting machines. Listen carefully here: The price of this machine is R7.50 greater, the labor productivity -- pay attention once again -- is 25 percent less, while this so-called new machine consumes 2 to 3 times more electrical power than the old (?Interlo) makes machines currently in operation. The question arises: Who needs such a machine? This machine is not being taken, and if it is being taken, then it stands like a dead weight, then it will be turned in for scrap metal, while people carry on working on the old machines. You see, this Vulkan works receives an excellent profit on account of an artificial price inflation. And we have a mass of letters about this, many letters. [passage omitted]

Our readers lay particular stress on an increase in the quality of production. Why? Because only quality production can satisfy the requirements of people and society, and I've already told you that this, i.e. satisfying people's requirements, is the main fundamental aim of our socialist production. Yet another very effective way, a very effective means of overcoming the tendency for expenditure is financial autonomy,financial autonomy, the general introduction of financial autonomy: that is commercial viability, the self-financing of enterprises and associations, and in the future, ministries as well. What does financial autonomy mean, what does commercial viability, self-financing mean? It means that every enterprise, association, ministry, must live, develop and perfect its production, improve working and living conditions, solve social tasks, tasks of a spiritual nature, not at the state's expense, but with its own money, earned by its own labor.

There's a good deal of expertise here: the expertise of Vaz, the expertise of the Sumi Machine-Building Association, who went over to commercial viability, who went over to full financial autonomy, and they have a great deal of funds for developing production, for developing the public and household services sector. It is true that they cannot always use the funds, inasmuch as these funds are not backed up by the availability of contracting construction organizations or the necessary materials -- but that's another issue and it deserves a special talk -- but in any case, it is a very effective form of overcoming the tendency for expenditure.

Lenin, in his day, wrote: The socialist state can only arise as a network of producer-consumer cooperatives which conscientiously take into account their production and their consumption and which economize on labor and steadfastly increase its productivity. A very profound idea: If you have produced something, take stock of what you have produced, distribute it all, distribute it fairly, depending on the quantity and quality of labour, and this should be done by the consumers and producers themselves, with the aim of continuing steadfastly to increase labor productivity. And that's the most important thing in economic development.

We have many letters on prices and self-financing -- I don't read them, but we already have the prototypes of these Leninist producer-consumer communes. This is team contracting, team contracting. What does team contracting mean? Workers unite, they work on one instruction, according to one schedule, they elect their team-leader themselves, they change the team-leader if necessary, they themselves distribute the funds they have earned depending on the labor participation factor, i.e. depending on the specific contribution of every specific worker to the end-result. This is quite a broad movement. It is being spread more fully and more widely, but as yet we are of course a long way away from the ideal, a long way away from this form being spread generally. And the task here is to raise this form, this form of working according to one schedule, to spread it in the workshop, in the enterprise in the final reckoning, in the ministry. I have already said that there are enterprises that have gone over to this form. At the moment a very great deal of work is being done to improve our economic system and to overcome its tendency for expenditure. The management system of the agro-industrial complex has been restructured; there, first of all, the kolkhoz and sovkhozes have received greater independence already. They receive definite and firm tasks for the 5-year plan; what they have obtained above this is at their total disposal. They can dispose of this produce as they see fit. Moreover, even, let's say, with fruits and vegetables, 30 percent of the planned production, they can sell on the free, collective farm market. In other words, initiative is loosening up, interest is appearing and arising in the end-results of labor and in raising its productivity. Well, I won't mention the fact that the restructuring of the management of the agro-industrial complex is helping to overcome departmental parochialism and the lack of coordination between selkhoztekhnika, selkhozkhimiya, [local organizations supplying machinery and fertilizers respectively] kolkhozes and sovkhozes and other service-providing organizations. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes are put at the center of labor in the agro-industrial complex.

Recently a decision was adopted on improving the planning and economic incentives, and management of state commerce and consumer cooperatives. This issue was discussed in the Politburo on 17 July, our papers wrote about this -- you can read about this matter and acquaint yourselves more carefully with it. The aim of it is to radically improve the quality and standards of trade services for the population, to get trade workers interested, to transfer them to financial autonomy and commercial viability. I think that this is a very important measure. Prior to this, yet another important decision was adopted a few months ago: this was about restructuring the system of management of consumer goods production. There, in the consumer goods production sector, the volume of gross sales in rubles will no longer be the main fundamental indicator. The most important thing there is the quality of production. Most important factors in both the quantity and the quality of production, are contractual relations between the producer and the consumer, between production and commerce. If the producer has not fulfilled his contract, he will be punished, and commerce will be punished, because the goods are not being sold, and the consumer will be punished -- he bears all the costs. And finally, at the same politburo meeting a proposal was examined, and in the main approved, about transferring to full financial autonomy, as from 1 January 1987, the ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine-Building and several dozens of enterprises at other ministries. Can you see the way things are going now -- a whole ministry is being transferred to financial autonomy and commercial viability; not an enterprise, not an association, but an entire ministry. I think this will be a huge step forward.

In a word: To overcome the expenditure tendency, it is necessary to have a whole system of indicators -- natural indicators, cost indicators, labor indicators. Scientists, practical workers, economic managers, and party and local soviet workers are working on this and on improving the economic mechanism. We have every reason to hope and be confident in the fact that this anti-expenditure, this economical economic mechanism will be completed -- that is the demand of the time. All the best to you.

DEFICIENCIES HAMPERING FARM SECTOR DISCUSSED

LD260502 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Today a session of the All-Union Operational Headquarters for Material-Technical Supply for Rural Areas is being held in the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee. It has been noted that on farms in Aktyubinsk, Pavlodar, Omsk, and some other oblasts the readiness level of combines and reapers is low, and yet mass harvesting has already started there. Repair of beetroot-harvesting machinery is being carried out slowly in Kirgizia and Belorussia. There are over 200,000 (?idle) trailers in the country's farms, especially in (?Tula), Kazan, and Kalinin Oblasts.

The main reason for these deficiencies is the unsatisfactory organization of work. Apart from that, individual engineering enterprises are letting agriculture down. Among those enterprises which are lagging behind these production associations were named: (Krasnyy Ovsar), (Berdyanskaya Pozhatka), and the Kherson Combine Factory. The Gomselmash Factory is lagging behind in deliveries of spare parts, new machines and equipment, as are the Sosnovoborsk factory and the Lithuanian association (Nelli).

The Ministry of the Chemical Industry was subjected to especially harsh criticism. It's directors have not fulfilled the decisions of the All-Union Operational Headquarters concerning the acceleration of deliveries of polyethylene for packing dairy products. The All-Union Operational Headquarters appeals to the management of the Ministry of Railways to intensify the supply of freight cars for dispatching complete machinery, especially from the Tula and Kherson Combine Factories, Ryazselmash, the Gorkiy and Kamsk Vehicle Works, Syzranselmash, and several other enterprises.

Report by Astakhov

LD251759 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Semen Astakhov commentary]

[Text] Today a regular session of the All-Union Operational Headquarters for Material-Technical Supply for Rural Areas was held at the USSR Gosagroprom. At the microphone is commentator Semen Astakhov, a member of the headquarters:

Chief attention today was devoted to provisions for harvest work in the country's eastern areas. The harvest has already begun in Siberia and in the Kazakh virgin lands, and it is going on under difficult conditions. Rain and, in some places, frost are hampering things. The machine operators are having to use every hour of good weather, saving every minute, in order to bring in the harvest with the least losses. The weather difficulties are augmented by organizational ones, through which tens of thousands of combines and reapers are unable to go out into the fields. The level of readiness of grain-cleaning machinery is low in the Altay and in Omsk and Amur Oblasts. The machine-builders do not always come to the aid of the grain farmers, although, as the headquarters noted, supplies of material-technical stocks are mainly being implemented on schedule and in the established quantities.

Let us take the Ministry of the Automobile Industry: The plan for overall volume is being fulfilled, but there is total failure as far as trailers are concerned. These are extremely necessary for conveying both grain and feed and other agricultural freight.

The Stavropol works alone, for example, is in arrears to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan to the tune of more than 700 trailers, and the Balashov works has a shortfall of 422. Thousands of vehicles from the Minsk and Kremenchu Automobile plants and K-700 vehicles are standing idle because of the poor work by Kostroma engine parts works. The grain farmers are being badly let down by the Gorkiy motor vehicle works and Yaroslavl engine works.

Look at the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry: The enterprises of this ministry are holding up supplies of technical rubber products. The metallurgists are providing smooth delivery of rolled stock for elevators. The headquarters has, of course, adopted emergency measures. But, it is evidently worth reminding the heads of the enterprises and ministries that the destiny of this year's harvest to a large extent depends upon their work.

LATIPOV REPORTS STORM GRAIN DAMAGE IN TATARIYA

LD251745 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] A report from our correspondent Ilyas Latipov from Tatariya:

A very powerful tornado and downpour have swept across the territory of the republic's Aznakayayevskiy Rayon. Although there were no human casualties, a significant amount of material damge was caused. More than 170 rural buildings were destroyed or damaged. Power transmission and communication lines have been put out of action. A creamery [maslozavod] was destroyed in the rayon center of Aznakayevo. Other installations have suffered. Ripened grain has been washed off the fields.

A state commission has been formed in the republic and is in full control of the situation and organizing aid for the affected population. Weathermen believes that Tatariya was reached by remnants of the destructive forces of a tornado which passed over the territory of neighboring Penza Oblast some days ago.

LAST JUNE WEATHER, CROP STATUS REPORTED

PM211039 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 4 Jul 86 p 2

[Agrometeorologist L. Litvinenko Report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] What were the weather and crops like in final 10 days of June? It became abruptly colder over most of the European part of the USSR. The mean temperature was 2-4 degrees below the perennial average for this time of year. Everywhere had rain, and in some places it was considerable.

Winter wheat and barely have reached full ripness in most of Moldavia, the southern Ukraine, the eastern North Caucasus Region, and the Lower Volga Region. The waxy stage of ripeness has been observed in wheat and rye in most parts of the Ukraine (except the northwest), the southeast Central Chernozem Region, and Saratov Oblast. The weight of harvestable grain is close to the long-term average: 1000 grains weighed 35-45 grams. Over the rest of the European territory winter crops have entered the milky stage of ripeness. In northern and northwestern regions they have flowered and former ears. North of a line from Grodno through Gomel, Orel, Tambov, and Saratov spring barley and wheat have also formed ears and the heading of panicles has been observed in oats.

Early spring grain crops have reached the milky stage of ripeness south of this line. In the southern half of the Ukraine, in the North Caucasus region, and in the Lower Volga the waxy stage of ripeness has been observed in spring barley and oats.

Corn has continued forming leaves. In southern regions it has formed 15-17 leaves. Panicle formation and stalk growth has been observed in millet. Early sown rice is beginning stem formation. Peas have ripened and sunflowers have begun blossoming in Moldavia, the southern and southeastern oblasts of the Ukraine, and the North Caucasus.

Flax has blossomed in most parts of the Ukraine, the Baltic region, and the RSFSR Non-Chernozem Zone. In a number of places seeds have entered the green stage of ripeness. Plant height ranges from 75 to 90 cm. In come zones stalks have continued growing and inflorescence formation has been observed. Long-stem flax is developing this year at a rate 7-10 days faster than the perennial average.

The weather in the Transcaucasus has been predominantly cold. Precipitation fell as snow in some places in mountainous regions. It became a warmer in the crop growing regions of Western Siberia and most of Kazakhstan.

Over most of Siberia and the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan stalk growth has begun in the early spring grain crops while the third leaf phase and tillering have been observed among later sown crops. In the Uralsk and Aktyubinsk Oblasts early grain crops have formed ears and flowered. Buckwheat is forming inflorescences.

In the Central Asian republics the mean temperature for the 10 days was close to the perennial average. There was no precipitation over the larger part of the territory. Cotton buds were forming over most of the territory. Flowering has begun on a massive scale in Ashkhabad, Mary, Chardzhou, Kashka-darya, Surkhan-darya, Kurgan-tyube, and Kulyab Oblasts.

In the Far East the mean temperature was near to the perennial average. Rain fell in all places. Early spring grain crops here have begun forming ears and tillering has been observed in rice.

NIKONOV ADDRESSES REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

LD232041 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] A regional conference was held in Dnepropetrovsk 22-23 August which discussed the tasks for increasing the production of grain in light of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on measures for enhancing the stability of the country's grain economy and increasing grain and fodder resources in the 12th 5-Year Plan.

It was stressed at the conference that the grain problem is a key one, determining the success of fulfilling the tasks set by the 27th party congress to fully provide the country in a short period with foodstuffs. Errors and mistakes in mastering intensive technology were analyzed in a searching and critical way, and specific measures for increasing grain production in the Ukraine and Moldavia by means of the further intensification of the industry were determined.

Participating in the work of the conference were key workers of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR State Agroindustrial committee, and the leaders of a number of union ministries and departments. Comrade Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the conference.